

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

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MARRIAGES.

On 10th December, at Shanghai, CHARLES ARTHUR HOWARD, Chief Tidesurveyor, I.M.C., Kiangiang, to ROSE LAVINIA ALSFORD-SANDERS, of Shanghai.

On 16th December, at Shanghai, ROBERT JAMES MARSHALL, M.D., to ETHEL MAY, youngest daughter of ALEXANDER WRIGHT, of Shanghai.

On 21st December, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, ARTHUR WILLIAM HILL, Supreme Court, Hongkong, to EMILY FLORA VON REIFFENSTUHL, youngest daughter of the late JONATHAN HOWELL, of Cambridge.

DEATHS.

On 10th December, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, ELIZABETH MACE, aged 36 years.

On 11th December, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, of smallpox, KATIE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. MADAR, aged 6 years.

On 13th December, at Hankow, ERIK, son of PAUL and AMALIA BLESKY.

On 18th December, at Shanghai, WILLIAM WALKER ARNOLD, aged 48 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per the ss. *Roon*, on Thursday, the 22nd inst.; and the French Mail of the 25th November is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Australien*, some time to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Chinese "Trial" pirate was sentenced at the Supreme Court on December 19th to three years imprisonment.

The Governor's desire to have a Volunteer reserve at Hongkong is rapidly being gratified. The idea is popular.

Members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong on Dec. 16 gave a ball at the City Hall.

The Japanese have captured two vessels all gged to be blockade runners. They are the *King Arthur* and the *Nigretia*.

Cpl. J. Crawford, of the Engineer Company of the Volunteers, has been promoted to the Sergeantcy resigned by Sergt. J. Parks.

H.M.S. *Albion* arrived from Weihaiwei on Dec. 17. On the way down she sighted and exploded a mine off Shantung Promontory.

Sergeant Bartolome, drill instructor at Hongkong, has left for Home, and was the recipient of a present and testimonial from the Volunteers.

The Taotai Shanghai has demanded from the Russian Consul the surrender of two of the *Askold's* crew, who are alleged to have murdered a Chinaman.

Mr. F. Smyth, formerly lieutenant in the H.K.V.A., has presented a cup to be competed for (at the targets) by members of the right half of No. 2 Company.

The Tanjong Paper Dock Co. Ltd. has been notified by the Secretary of State that the Government intends to expropriate its property on terms to be mutually arranged.

Efforts were made to fix the guilt on certain Chinese, in the case of the big godown fire, but, as usual in such cases, it was found difficult to obtain satisfactory evidence. Enquiries are still continuing.

Messrs Benjamin, Kelly and Potts were informed by telegraph, on Dec. 21 that the S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. Ltd., has declared an Interim Dividend of Tls. 5 per share for the half year ended 31st October, 1904.

His Excellency the Governor presenting the prizes at St. Joseph's College on the 17th inst. said he felt it to be one of his paramount duties to take an active interest in all that concerned the education of the youth of the Colony.

The Hongkong branch of the Navy League, at the annual meeting, signalled the departure of Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and D. R. Law by eulogistic speeches having reference to the enthusiasm and energy those gentlemen had brought to the Cause.

At the Crown Lands sale at the Public Works Department on December 19th, Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1,161 was bought by the Gas Company for \$65,418, while Inland Lot No. 1,723 was sold to Yeung Chuk Hing for \$11,138. There was no competition.

The Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co. Ltd. of Shanghai held a meeting on December 1th. An unsmiling athletic Bank had taken steps which caused them hastily to issue debentures. The shareholders seemed satisfied that gold in paying quantities would soon be forthcoming.

Hongkong Spring Racing opens on February 21st.

A Chinese employed at the Naval Yard Docks was on Dec. 19 found in the dock with a fractured skull. He was admitted to the Civil Hospital where he now lies in a serious condition. How the accident occurred is unknown, but it is presumed that he fell into the dock.

The proprietor of a pork shop at Queen's Road West was proceeded against by Senior Inspector Lambie of the Sanitary Board for selling meat without a licence. The cat was found in the shop already dressed for food. The defendant was ordered to pay \$100, in default two months' imprisonment.

So soon after the presentation of a pair of white gloves to the Judge as a token of Hongkong's freedom from crime, this last week's criminal session has come as a startler. Piracy, murder, and unnatural crime, involving sentences of death and lifelong imprisonment, are against a reputation for "spotless purity."

Local telegrams to the *Daily Press* announced the forthcoming purchase of docks at Singapore by the British Government; a demand by the Shanghai Taotai that two Russian sailors be given up to Chinese Justice for killing a Chinaman; and the arrival at Singapore of Japanese men-o-war, going to meet the Baltic Fleet.

We are informed by the General Managers of the Tebrau Planting Co., Ltd., that they are in receipt of advices from their Manager, Mr. Larken, to the effect that the negotiations for the sale of the Company's property which have been going on for some time have been brought to a successful issue and that the same has been sold for \$50,000 cash.

Mr. J. C. E. Douglas, a British magistrate at Shanghai, fined some of the crew of the steamer *Nigretia* for refusing to go to Vladivostok, and threatened to imprison them if they persisted. Shortly after she sailed, the steamer was seized by the Japanese, and found to be carrying Russian naval officers who had been interned at Shanghai.

In reply to "J. T. C." *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, a paper for stamp collectors, says "the letters 'D.P.' surcharged upon the Hongkong stamps stand for *Daily Press*, a local newspaper which is allowed to mark its stamps thus to prevent theft." One London dealer told an inquirer that the mysterious letters were put on by the Censor on account of the war!

A Chinese woman, sentenced by Mr. Gompertz to undergo six months' imprisonment for detaining a young girl, misunderstood the situation; and thinking it was her victim who had to go to gaol, was all smiles. The girl, labouring under the same delusion, swooned. A kindly policeman explained matters, the harpy did the swooning, and the young girl grew more cheerful.

The Kowloon Cricket Club may possibly be granted a fine piece of ground, containing some 35,000 square feet, off Austen Road, Kowloon. The only difficulty appears to be that the Kowloon Bowling Green Club ground is situated on this plot. This club has been approached by the Government with an offer of a larger piece of land nearer the barracks and a monetary compensation. The matter is still in abeyance.

THE MYTH OF THE YELLOW PERIL.

(Daily Press, 17th December.)

Were we asked for a definition of the word "Myth," its two most essential characteristics—that it should be unconscious, and that it should be only subjectively true, must occupy the foremost place. Habitually we speak of the ages of Myth as long past, and contrast them with what we by antithesis pretend to call the age of history, as if the factor of objective truth had at some period been miraculously introduced into human affairs. The historian who seeks to pry into the events of his own time soon makes the discovery how potent is the spell thrown about his path, and how difficult, if not impossible, of unravelment are those unconscious threads which engage both actor and relator in one common net, from which escape is only practicable in the inverse ratio of its remoteness. Thus the *Mythos* which in modern affairs shrouds our judgment and befools our mental vision, because we ourselves can by no means extricate ourselves from its all-pervading tentacles, in the distant past often affords us clear glimpses of the reality,—the more trustworthy that they are absolutely unconscious. One of these myths which still clings to us with all the grim persistence of Deianeira's poisoned garment is, of course, the Yellow Spectre that haunts the imaginations of continental statesmen. An incontestable fact in the 13th century, it had by the middle of the 19th dwindled down to a faint legend; its revival as a full-grown myth by the end of the century is worthy of notice.

With that revival the name of the late Lord SALISBURY is perhaps to be intimately associated. To open out the riches of the Far East had for centuries been the dream of mediæval Europe, but the Mohammedan occupation of all western Asia stood in the way, till the rounding of the Cape by VASCO DE GAMA opened a new road by sea, which Portugal lost no time in taking advantage of. For some time she practically kept the trade in her own hands, but by degrees other nations crept in, and early in the eighteenth century practically all the nations of Europe had their representatives at Canton. The Chinese had all through been somewhat jealous of this position, which had, however, comported with the policy of the earlier and greater monarchs of the new Manchæo dynasty, who were sufficiently powerful to exercise real control over their foreign visitors. The Manchæo dynasty, as is customary with Asiatic sovereignties, fell on evil times, and its government finding itself unable to cope with the more vigorous men from afar, became jealous and attempted by interferences and restrictions of all kinds to render unbearable the further residence of the Europeans, whom, however, it could not by fair means remove. At last the situation becoming unbearable, the British Government was driven to interfere by force of arms; with the result that the Chinese Government had to enter into the treaty of Nanking, which it was hoped would result in a better understanding between China and the European nations. The British Government had no desire to interfere with the old-established empire of China, and in this it was in consonance with the entire nation, who had no desire to increase the responsibilities of the Empire, and felt that Great Britain already had her hands full enough, and would gladly cry halt. The Chinese Empire in its decay had no statesman of sufficient ability to recognise the situation, and still kept on its policy

of obstruction, necessitating an almost constant state, if not of war, of practical hostility, requiring constant vigilance with occasionally harsher measures, till Lord SALISBURY acceding to office, with the best of intentions, but scarcely fully comprehending the utter breakdown of the governmental system of China, evolved a policy of using China as a set-off against Russia, then beginning to make herself prominent in the affairs of the further East. The policy in itself was sound enough, but neither Lord SALISBURY nor his trusted advisers were aware of the utter stage of decay into which the China of the day had fallen. In a few words he proposed to enter on a different course of treatment, and by yielding to China in such points as he thought he could with safety, to engage her rulers in his interest, and eventually by strengthening her hands to utilise her in putting an end to further Russian advances. Had China possessed within herself any of the elements of stability something might have been anticipated from such a course, but in reckoning on any assistance from the effete faction then in power he was reckoning without his host. China was so sick herself that she could scarcely sit up, much less render any help to anyone else, and the most she desired was to be permitted to shuffle off her mortal coil in peace. But the scheme did not fall on deaf ears: other countries had been looking out for the reversion of her estate, and were not plagued with such tender consciences. They had been looking out for the collapse which they fancied they saw approaching, and Lord SALISBURY's suggestion of a resuscitated China threw momentarily a flood of cold water on their hopes. Was it possible that after all the sick man had so much vitality left as the British Minister fancied? The very idea led them to ponder: there was a time when Eastern Asia had well nigh proved more than a match for the whole of Europe, when the arms of BATU had overrun the entire of south-eastern Europe, and were only prevented from annexing the rest of the continent by the recall in the midst of his victories of the redoubtable BATU. Russia, who had planned out a scheme of partition which recalled her actions in Poland at the end of the eighteenth century, was the first to take alarm, but was quickly followed by Germany. Surely, thought they, should China seriously listen to the voice of England and pull herself together, all our fondest schemes are likely to be dashed to the ground, and we must for ever give up our grand game of aggrandisement. Better then be the first to cry aloud and warn the nations of their impending danger. England surely dare not provoke another "Mongol" invasion of Europe, and must range herself on our side and permit us to carry out our programme; when we between us have entered on possession it will be time enough to act as the "vulgar little boy" and rally her on her credulity.

Fortunately England knew as much as Russia of the cause of China's effacement, and probably knew more of her actual powers of offence, and the picture drawn by the Kaiser of the dreadful spectre fell flat, but none the less it is well to remember that we are not yet out of the bush, and though the Yellow Terror has for once failed of its hoped-for effect, we have still to be prepared for eventualities in Eastern Asia, assured that the very first case of neglect on our part will be followed by the immediate occupation of the deserted post by our ever watchful and wily opponents. The evolution of the myth of the "Terror" is but a small part of the scheme, but the

same power of imagination, which evolved so futile, if ingenious a measure to gain the sympathies of the world is not likely to hesitate as to its means.

CHINA AND THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 19th December.)

The manner in which China has hitherto contrived to keep out of the difficulties created by the war has been no less gratifying than surprising. That it was to her own interest to preserve neutrality there could be no question, and that she should do so was equally to the interests of foreign nations. Had China been compelled to take a side—either one way or the other—wide-spread complications must inevitably have arisen; and there can be no doubt that every attempt was made by Russia to force the Chinese into what would have been a cardinal mistake on their part and would have worked admirably into the hands of that nation. The position of the Chinese was by no means an enviable one, and it must have required an unusual amount of tact and firmness on the part of the Central authorities to prevent some hasty act on the part of one or other of the local officials which might have dragged the Empire into hostilities. The difficulty was from the first apparent to all acquainted with the peculiar relations between the Imperial and Provincial authorities, and the trouble which the former have at all times to restrain outbursts of popular feeling. No doubt both these elements have at times been exaggerated, and have been made the excuse alike for wrongful action and equally wrongful inaction on many occasions. But that these difficulties do exist to a considerable extent there can be no doubt. The Provincial authorities, while nominally completely subservient to Peking, are often prone to take action on their own initiative, and in times of pressure, there is always a danger of their getting out of hand; and the same want of subordination is to be found on occasion amongst the masses. Sir THOMAS WADE once observed that, although the Chinese appeared to be under the most absolute form of government, there was really no nation so democratic as China. With such a state of things to deal with, it must have been no easy task to hold the people in order; and the difficulty which thus existed was greatly increased by the fact that Russia was only too anxious from the first to draw China in, and, as events progressed, this desire was rather increased than diminished—though later on, no doubt, Russia had cause to congratulate herself that her attempts to force the Chinese into declared hostility did not succeed. For this, however, she had to thank good fortune and well-advised firmness on the part of China rather than her own action. "Pinch their tails enough and they will fight" was what was said by a Russian Diplomatist referring to the Chinese shortly before the war broke out with Japan, and most certainly their tails were sufficiently pinched. The treatment they had received from the Russian soldiery was not likely to be readily forgotten by the people; and the officials might easily have fallen into the error of thinking that the opportunity of retaliation had arrived when Russia was face to face with an opponent such as Japan.

Fortunately China was level headed enough to see the advantage of remaining neutral. In a way she might fairly say: "A plague on both your houses." She had no love for either side—and her hope lay in awaiting the course of events, and getting the best terms she could from

whichever side proved victorious. It must have become abundantly evident to her that she ran less danger from Japan obtaining a strong influence in Manchuria than from Russia continuing her quasi Protectorate but real occupation of the country; and if Japan pushed the Russians back, she was after all only fighting the Chinese battle for them. Of course there was still the question of preventing the Japanese taking up an attitude which would menace the integrity of China. The fear of this had been from the first at the bottom of her easy yielding to Russian aggression; but in this respect the Chinese are shrewd enough to know that the influence of foreign nations would probably be sufficient to restrain Japan, while all past experience showed that it was not sufficient to restrain Russia.

The wisdom of the course which was adopted cannot be doubted. Though the task was by no means an easy one, the Chinese have managed to escape the trap which in more ways than one was laid for them; and so averted a spread of complications which would have been far reaching in its effects. Had China been forced into the war, Russia would have had, what she manifestly desired, namely a ground on which she could drag other Powers in. It would have become almost impossible for other nations to remain neutral.

ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN UNLIKELY.

(Daily Press, 20th December.)

In recently dealing with the question, that has been so earnestly discussed in the Home papers, of the effects which are likely to be produced by the probable overthrow of Russian supremacy in Manchuria, a writer in the *Times* bases a speculation as to the possibility of danger arising in the form of a combination between China and Japan against European Powers, chiefly upon the essential difference between the Chinese and the Japanese character. Judging from this standpoint, he comes to the conclusion that there is not much ground to fear that there will be an "awakening of China" such as may be productive of the terrible results which have been foreshadowed by writers in the Continental Press on this subject. This conclusion is no doubt a perfectly sound one; and it might have been sustained upon more solid grounds than merely the difference between the Chinese and the Japanese in character. The two peoples do not more differ in individual character than in their national autonomy. Japan is a model of centralisation, China a marvel of all that makes for decentralisation. In the former country there is complete control at Headquarters and loyal co-operation by subordinates and by the people at large; while in China, the want of control by the central authorities over those in the Provinces has always stood out as a marked feature, and must for many years to come prevent such reforms as have been introduced into Japan, where the nation as a whole can be much more easily moved. What has been done in Japan is thus impossible in China. It must be very many years before such a change could be wrought as would make it possible for China as a whole to assimilate western knowledge and appliances as Japan has done; or, if it could do so, to use them for the benefit of the nation at large. Before such a period has elapsed, other changes of an equally important character may reasonably be looked for, which will greatly modify any danger that might be supposed likely to arise. The opposition to Europeans which causes outbreaks from time to time is chiefly the

result of the Chinese adherence to their old system; and before this could be overcome sufficiently to enable China to adopt European appliances—warlike and other—in any way that could possibly be considered likely to lead up to an invasion of Europe even in conjunction with Japan, she would have learnt enough to make her very little inclined for any such enterprise. A combination of this nature between China and Japan such as would be dangerous to Europe generally is thus in the highest degree improbable within any period of time worth considering as a matter of practical politics; and indeed, except so far as it may be provoked by a common danger from aggressive action on the part of a given European nation, any such combination is very unlikely at all. The Chinese are no friends specially of the Japanese, and will be quite content to hold their own in their own peculiar way for very many years to come, and even if this were not so, there is no reason to imagine that the Japanese will have any idea of joining with them for a heroic attack upon Europe as a whole. Their whole tendency indeed is precisely in the opposite direction. They have fully recognised that their main interests are in common with foreign nations considered generally. They are anxious to come into line in all questions of commercial and general policy, and are, in any case where China might adopt a different attitude, much more likely to be a support than an opposition to western nations.

It is no doubt so new a thing in the history of European dealings with Eastern nations, for a foreign Power to meet with opposition such as has been made against Russia, that it is not surprising people should speculate as to what will be the outcome of such an event. It is generally assumed that Japan will become elated to such a degree that anything reasonable or unreasonable may be expected of her. The facts, however, do not justify any such apprehensions. It was certainly with great reluctance that Japan entered upon the war, which she was to the last anxious to avoid if Russia had given her any opportunity of doing so. The steady aggression of Russia threatening her independence was so manifest that action could not be avoided. It does not at all follow that in normal circumstances a warlike policy will be acceptable to a nation among whom the instincts of trade and peaceful progress are marked features. The only circumstances in which it is likely that Japan and China would combine in warlike operations are where a mutual danger rendered such combination absolutely necessary for self preservation; and it is not likely that this will arise. The idea that out of mere ambition and desire for conquest China and Japan would combine for a general attack upon Europeans completely ignores the nature and genius of the latter country. The unanimity necessary to sustain such a gigantic enterprise could hardly be aroused among the Chinese, even if it were in any degree likely that it would be acceptable to Japan to unite her fortunes with so doubtful an ally.

The Korean Foreign Office, according to a report in the *Korea Daily News*, has declared the contract entered into between a Korean styling himself the head of the Korean Fisheries Co., and a Japanese whaling syndicate at Nagasaki, for whaling rights on the Korean coasts, null and void. The Foreign Office is unaware of the existence of a "Korean Fisheries Co." and moreover cannot endorse any such contract, which was made without its knowledge.

DANGER OF DELAY.

(Daily Press, 21st December.)

Although we do not by any means endorse the statements made by some of the alarmists in North China as to the feeling in the Northern provinces against foreigners, it cannot be doubted for a moment that there is less disposition on the part of the Chinese and their officials, to welcome foreign enterprise into the country. The Boxer agitation and the anti-foreign views expressed by many natives in the interior are the fruit of incendiary literature and false reports spread in the tea-shops, but these are not, we believe, in any way countenanced by the Imperial Government or even by the provincial officials. The attention of the Waiwupu having been called to the anti-foreign tracts recently published in the three Northern provinces, a memorial was addressed to the Throne on the subject, and a Rescript soon followed, of which the following translation is given by our Shanghai morning contemporary:—"At Tamin and Shunté in Chihli, Changté in Honan, and Tungao-hsien in Shantung there are societies of bandits reported to be established which gather together men in great numbers and spread false rumours. These societies have for their object the harassing of Christians, and they seek to raise trouble by exciting suspicion. If this is really the case these societies ought to be rooted out completely at once, and the members arrested and dealt with immediately. That the affair may be nipped in the bud, YUAN SHIH-KAI, CHOU FU, and CHEN KWEI-SUNG must therefore give orders at once to the civil and military officials of the various places, directing them to allow no concealment, but to apprehend the offenders by direct and secret methods, and deal with them respectively according to their deserts. Moreover, the lives and property of the missionaries in the various places must be jealously protected; there must be no disturbance whatever, as will be the result if there is any remissness on the part of the officials. We consider this a most important matter." From this it will be gathered that the Peking Government is quite prepared to take the steps necessary to repress any attempt that may be made by agitators and to prevent any fanatic feeling becoming dangerous, for they certainly do not want another occupation of the capital and district by foreign troops, and they recognise that the Powers cannot permit their subjects to be wantonly massacred.

But while they are anxious not to afford a fresh pretext for foreign interference, they are also more alive to the inadvisability, from their point of view, of allowing foreigners to obtain a footing in the country after the manner of the Muscovites in building a railway across Chinese territory and then usurping administrative functions on the plea of affording the line protection. The Chinese people have also seen the Russian hosts beaten back with great loss by the Japanese armies, and they not unnaturally begin to suspect that the talons of the Bear are not so powerful as they had been led by appearances to suppose. They are therefore waxing bolder in their demeanour to foreigners, and are freely urging their authorities not to grant any further concessions to strangers for railways. The action of the people of the Two Kwang in asking that the concession to the American Syndicate to build the Hankow-Canton Railway should be cancelled because they had agreed to sell their rights under their agreement to the Belgian Syndicate and the success attending it was one proof of this

change of policy. Another has recently been given. An application made by the representative of a French syndicate for permission to construct a railway between Hsian, the capital of Shensi, and Talyuan-fu, the capital of Shansi, a distance of nearly seven hundred miles, has now, we hear, been refused. The petition was referred by the Waiwupu to the Governors of the two provinces named to report upon, and they replied that, considering the importance of the route through which the proposed line will pass, it would not be politic to allow foreigners to control or work such a railway. Moreover, there are plenty of gentry and merchants in the two provinces quite ready to raise the funds required for the construction of the line without resorting to foreign capitalists at all. The fear of foreign interference is strong in China, and it is not too much to say that it has originated out of the aggressive action of the Russians in Manchuria. As a consequence, we fear, the development of the material resources of China and the extension of her means of internal communication will be delayed no doubt to a considerable extent by this mistrust, inasmuch as while it is true that there is a great deal of unemployed or hoarded capital in China, it will always be shy of investment in enterprises which may and would be at the mercy of the mandarins. Meanwhile, too, there is reason to expect that those enterprising foreigners who have, after much trouble, obtained railway and other concessions in China will find that, from one cause or another, it will be difficult to make substantial progress with such undertakings. At the same time, it is more than likely that any neglect to comply with the conditions of such concessions, or failure to construct a projected railway, will be eagerly seized as pretext for cancelling a concession. Will the British and Chinese Corporation please take note?

RUSSIAN OUTRAGE AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 22nd December.)

War is having its effect upon the universal nerves. It is brutalising the participants, brutalising the beholders; and it is changing the intellectual focus of all and sundry. Its neuralgic effect upon some of the actors in the great international tragedy has just been illustrated in a distressing manner at Shanghai, with fatal result to a Chinaman, and with disturbing effect upon the mental balance of our fellow nationals in the northern port.

It appears that Shanghai has been for some time offended by the bearing and behaviour of the Russian sailors going ashore from their interned ships. How much the local bias in favour of Japan and against Russia has conspired to exaggerate their misdeeds, we can only guess. It does seem as if someone ought to point out, even after the latest disastrous incident, the need of making some charitable allowance for the tame tigers so recently excited by the smell of blood. The inherent savagery of the human brute has been dragged nearer the surface in the soldier. It is but held on leash in time of peace; in war time, he is admired, and praised, for letting it out, and called a hero if he lets it go at the right moment. Here at Shanghai we have a lot of human fighting animals, whose tusks have been whetted, and who have been withdrawn and held back from further scenes of carnage. They have not yet had time to get back to the old peace footing. Before, teased and tormented by the rich

coolie, these same men would have grinned amiably, even after vodka, and shown no evil temper. Now, since self-repression of that kind is not called for in the trenches, or behind the gun shields, they had lost the knack of patience. With a mob of jabbering Chinese coolies behind them, some even impudently plucking at their garments; and remembering that they were prisoners of war, with liberties recently restricted, it is small wonder that they should be goaded to viciousness. A weapon lying unfortunately too handy, one of them, according to our contemporary, swung it behind him, obviously to rid himself of his annoyers. Whatever his intentions were with regard to the coolies, it seems clear, from the report, that he intended no hurt to his actual victim. That is, if it be true that the Chinaman killed by the swung adze was a non-interested passer by. How is it, in face of this admission, that we find our hitherto sober contemporary clamouring for vengeance? It must be that the war fever has got into it also. Since Russian law prevents the Russian consul trying a Russian sailor when that sailor's officers are available, and because presumably, it does not trust the Russian Court Martial to make the punishment sufficiently severe, our northern contemporary abandons a principle that is as old as foreign residence in China; and would have these two foreigners handed over to trial by Chinese. It is very bad, and very alarming, of course, that evil-passioned Russian sailors should be allowed to wander through the streets of Shanghai. It must make some of the old ladies there quake in their beds. But a little while ago, there were Japanese youths running about Shanghai, with knives, and using them. This was bad, too, but we do not wish to make too much of it. It was, as we say, one of the painful concomitants of a close-by war. There was no outcry, however, against the principle of extra-territoriality in that case; no demand that the foreign delinquents should be handed over to the tender mercies of a Taotai. Why this difference?

After the North Sea affair, we have no great love for the Russian sailor. We can never trust him now to behave like a civilized creature. At the same time, he is a foreigner, and we know something of Chinese criminal procedure. We remember things that this war and this incident appear to have made Shanghai forget. Not having forgotten, and not having succumbed to the fell influences of the war, we cannot join our otherwise esteemed contemporary in its latest demand. Instead, we protest, and strongly protest, against it.

OPIUM.

(Daily Press, 23rd December.)

When the war is over, we are to have another agitation against the opium traffic. So we gather from some free literature which has reached us from America. The fact that the date fixed for it is so uncertain places it among the future troubles that seem to have but little concern with us to-day; but a little cold water poured on them at the outset should not come amiss to these ardent spirits who wish to do something for China "when the war is over." The International Reform Bureau of Washington claims to have shown considerable patience, forbearing to trouble England with the matter while she was occupied with the other Boers. In October last, however, the Rt. Hon. A. J. BALFOUR had a long letter from them, for which he promised "careful consideration." The letter,

with a certain degree of tact, besought the British Government to cancel its "dishonourable treaty" with China, and went on:—"You doubtless know that the opium revenue from China is diminishing toward a vanishing point, and this would seem to be from every point of view the strategic time to create a favourable impression on international public opinion, before the cry shall be raised that China, having been delivered from the paw of the Bear, must be delivered from the more destructive paw of the Lion." The writer, Mr. WILBUR F. CRAFTS, strokes the British Premier down neatly by assuring him of "my very high opinion of the British Government"; and proceeds to quote WU TING FANG, Chinese Minister at Washington, to the effect that although China now raises much opium, "because otherwise it must have it from outside, the entire business would be swiftly suppressed if Great Britain would give the Chinese a free hand." There is room for more than one opinion, we suppose, as to the honourable or dishonourable character of our old treaty. As to it being particularly an opium treaty, we know of no greater reason for so calling it than the fact that the Emperor of China agreed to pay the value of some opium that was "delivered up at Canton in the month of March, 1839, as a ransom" for certain Englishmen then imprisoned and threatened with death. To speak of the "compulsory sale of opium, (particularly) enforced by British treaty," is as false as it seems to be fashionable. It is worth while to note the remark by WU TING FANG, which the anti-opium people quote so glibly. China, which at present "raises much opium, because otherwise it must have it from outside," is said to need only a free hand to suppress the use of the drug altogether. If ever two mutually exclusive propositions were linked together, they are linked together here, surely? In any case, there is little likelihood of China refusing to import opium while it enhances her revenue as it does at present. The objection in the first place was probably to all foreign imports, and not to opium particularly; and it has to be remembered that opium was "an article of trade at Canton in the middle of last century." To call it the white man's poison is nonsense. It was introduced by Chinese from Java, and the white man catered to a "long felt want." He is still catering, in competition with the enormous native growth; and providing a much purer article than that prepared by the Chinese themselves. Here is more useful work for the Reform Bureau, to push the sale of the less injurious article! As to facts, the Reform Bureau mentions the desire of the Chinese Government to prohibit its use, while the *Shenpao* of Shanghai says it is "loath to give up this source of revenue." A Chefoo missionary is reported to have written that "the opium habit . . . is draining the resources of the people and consequently their purchasing power." Apropos thereof there is a story worth retelling of the anti-tobacco crank and the smoker. "What does your tobacco cost you a week?" the smoker was asked. "About half a crown," he answered. "How long have you smoked at that rate?" was the next question. "About ten years" said the smoker. "Has it ever occurred to you that with the money so wasted, invested at compound interest, you could now have owned the house you live in?" The bolder man removed his pipe to ask: "Do you smoke?" "No." "Do you own the house you live in?" "No." "Well, then." Perhaps there are some other reasons for China's poverty.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 16th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE)
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

TANG TSU U. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.
The fifth day of the hearing of this appeal. As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Mr. Slade continued his case for the appellant.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

JUDGMENT WITH COSTS.

Judgment with costs was given in the following cases:—The Hing Cheong Lung Wing Ki v. The Chan Ching Provision Store; \$106.15; The Fuk Wo v. Ting Kai, \$22.67; Lam Choy Pang v. The Lan Shing firm, \$100; S. J. David and Co. v. Lai Hing, \$30; Chin Tsung Fat v. Mung Po, \$51; The Kai Tai v. Li Pui, \$39.60; and Hurnam Singh v. Lo Hoi, \$15.

Saturday, 17th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION

BEFORE HIS HONOUR Mr. T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

NG HAM CHEUNG v. JEBSEN AND CO.
The plaintiff, represented by Mr. H. W. Bailey, claimed \$1,000, being damages for breach of contract. Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defence.

Mr. Bailey stated that the claim originally was for \$1,267.55, reduced to \$1,000 so as to come within summary jurisdiction. On the 19th September the plaintiff entered into a contract with the defendants for the supply of fifty tons of Hamburg horse shoes at \$2.86 per picul. These horse shoes were actually in the defendants' possession at the time and were to be supplied within one month from the date of the contract. The plaintiff mentioned to the broker arranging the contract that the horse shoes were for shipment. A few days later the plaintiff, through his agent at Newchwang, resold the shoes at Tls. 3 mace 8 per picul. Subsequently the plaintiff heard that the shoes had been sold by defendants to a third party, and plaintiff wrote to the defendants asking for delivery of the shoes. Defendants replied that they could not do so then as the people from whom defendants purchased had not delivered them. That was at the end of October or the beginning of November, well after the month had expired. He submitted a letter from the plaintiff's agent at Newchwang in support of the contention that a sub-contract was made. He did not produce the contract, as he understood that the defendants' solicitor admitted the letter.

Mr. Looker said that though he admitted the letter, he did not admit the legal import of it.

Mr. Bailey said that on the understanding that the letter was admitted the plaintiff had not gone to the expense of sending to Newchwang for the witnesses.

His Honour, to allow the plaintiff to get further evidence from Newchwang, adjourned the case for six weeks.

Monday, 19th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. SPENCER BERKELEY
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A TRIAD PIRATE.

Chan Shing Hing was charged with demanding money from Fung Ki Fa, a Tai-O

(Chinese village at the extreme west of Lantau Island) fisherman, on the 6th July last; (2) with, accompanied by others, making a riot under arms later on the same day; and (3) with unlawfully assembling with others to create a disturbance.

Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted on behalf of the Crown.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. T. Banks, H. W. Fraser, W. A. Ward, I. Silbermann, G. M. Smith, H. N. Mody and F. A. Wendt.

Fung Ki Fa, in giving evidence, said that at about 9 a.m. on the 6th of July last the prisoner, in the capacity of a Triad leader, along with two others, came to his boat and demanded \$100 blackmail. The prisoner and his gang belonged to Hok-lo (a district in Chinese territory outside the British New Territory). On the witness refusing to accede to the demand the defendant threatened to bring a gang of a hundred men and make him do so. He then left with the others, but returned at eleven o'clock accompanied by a gang of pirates who manned seven or eight boats. The boats were not able to cross the bar, although it was high water, so the pirates, after shouting threats that they would beat the present witness and break up his boat, landed a little distance away and approached the village along the shore. The witness and others pointed arms at them, and the attackers, after shouting out more threats, retired. The prisoner cried out to his comrades "Brethren, we cannot get across this deep water. We will go away, take tea, and come back at three o'clock, ebb tide. We can then get across." The prisoner was armed with a revolver and knife. The police were informed in the meanwhile, and when the pirates returned four of them were arrested, but the prisoner, the leader of the gang, escaped. The prisoner had levied small sums of blackmail from the witness on previous occasions.

In answer to the prisoner's question, "Am I not a fisherman?" witness replied "You are a vagabond and belong to the Triads."

Two other fishermen gave evidence, and P. C. Henry Harding, sworn, deposed that on the 24th October last, on account of information received, he went to Shek Shan Village in Lantau Island accompanied by about fifty fishermen. The prisoner was found in a matshed lying down under some boxes.

The jury, after the Chief Justice's summing up, returned a verdict of guilty. His Lordship sentenced the man to three years' hard labour and twenty-four strokes of the birch, within the first six months' incarceration.

AN ABOMINABLE OFFENCE.

Chun Lum, a Chinese coolie, was charged with committing an indecent assault on a child. He pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were empanelled:—Messrs. C. H. W. Kew, C. G. S. Mackie, M. J. Danenberg, H. L. Muhle, F. Gomes, R. Pestonjee and H. Suter.

The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for the term of his natural life.

ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY.

Ho Tak and Lok Wing were charged with having, on the evening of the 22nd of November, assaulted a woman, Chan Ho, with knives, and with stealing gold rings from her; (2) with attempted armed robbery; (3) with assault, etc.

Mr. H. S. Calthrop, acting on behalf of the Attorney General, prosecuted for the Crown.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jurors were empanelled:—Messrs. G. M. Smith, J. Johnstone, E. V. D. Parr, C. W. Smith, H. F. Chard, F. G. Allen and R. H. King.

The facts, briefly, from the evidence, were that after Chan Ho, the prosecutrix, had gone to bed she was roused by some men coming into her cubicle. One man was supposed to keep guard over her while the others ransacked the premises. The woman managed to rush over to the window and shout for help. This frightened the robbers, and they decamped. After they had gone the prosecutrix missed some gold rings. The two defendants, two of a gang of about five, were chased and arrested in the street.

When the first defendant was asked if he desired to put any questions to the second witness he said "We were the only two who went upstairs," and both prisoners thereupon admitted attempted robbery, but said they did not steal anything.

Mr. Calthrop signified that he was satisfied with this, and the jury formally returned a verdict of guilty to the charge of attempted robbery.

His Lordship sentenced each of the prisoners to two years' hard labour.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR Mr. T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

MA SHEUNG TONG v. LI KAN TAI.

The plaintiff, represented by Mr. O. D. Thomson, claimed altogether \$217.80 from the defendant. The defendant admitted paying \$150 out of the amount owing, and also admitted liability to the extent of a further \$60.

Judgment was given for \$60 and costs.

Tuesday, 20th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S.
BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE CAPITAL CHARGE.

Before proceeding with another case the Chief Justice asked Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, was acting on behalf of the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., the Attorney-General, if he had anything to communicate with respect to the capital charge against Charles Smith, Erik Hogman, and William Nason.

Mr. Pollock sent a message to the Attorney-General, saying that he personally had not received any instructions regarding this case. He understood, however, that Mr. O. D. Thomson had been retained in the matter, and time was wanted to prepare the defence.

On receiving word from the Attorney-General Mr. Pollock intimated that he understood the Crown proposed to proceed with this case to-day (Wednesday), subject to any application made to His Lordship on behalf of the defence.

The Chief Justice said that when the Court rose he would adjourn the Criminal Sessions till Thursday, so as to allow time to prepare the defence.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Three Chinamen, Lau Tam, Yeung Lam Tse, and Yeung San, were charged with (1) assault with intent to rob, and (2) wounding Chan Tak, Leung Sai and Lo Tai with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty. The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. H. W. Fraser, G. Rapp, G. M. Smith, W. Schmidt, E. Heermann, R. H. King and F. A. Wendt.

The case against the prisoners, briefly, was that on the night of the 27th November these men, along with others, while armed with knives, made an attack on three lighters moored alongside the Naval Yard Extension works at Matankok. Chan Tak, a lighterman, was sleeping in the cabin of his boat when he was disturbed by the door being opened. He then saw a man, holding a knife in his hand, standing at the entrance. He asked "Who are you?" whereupon the robber—afterwards identified as the first prisoner—entered the room and stood over him, ordering silence at the same time. Chan Tak attempted to jump up; and the robber, slashing at random, cut his leg. The lighterman managed to grasp the knife and shouted loudly "Save life!" People then came over from another lighter and there was a scuffle. A man named Lo Tai seized the man's queue as he jumped overboard. The others of the gang also took flight. The first prisoner was taken from the water, minus his queue tassel, which had been retained by Lo Tai, by an Indian constable.

After Mr. Pollock had narrated these facts the first defendant admitted going on board with intent to steal.

His Lordship—And the grievous bodily harm?

The man denied this and the case was continued.

There was no direct evidence against the second and third prisoners, who had been arrested subsequent to the occurrence, but they had incriminated themselves in statements made in the charge room and at the Magistracy. In these statements they admitted being of the robber gang, but said they had been afraid to go on board the lighter in question.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

There was another charge of robbery, but the men having been already convicted on one serious charge this case was not proceeded with.

The Chief Justice in giving judgment said—While you two (second and third prisoners) watched, your companion entered, in the dead of night, the lighter in which this workman and his family were sleeping. He made a murderous assault on the man and injured his wife when she came to help him. You (first prisoner) stabbed the man Lo Tai on the head, and it was lucky that some serious injury did not result. You then made a bold bid to escape, and nearly got "scot free." It was only on account of the bravery of the Indian in charge of the yard, who got you by jumping into the water, that you were arrested. You are a dangerous man and must be kept away from the community for some time—five years and twenty-four strokes of the birch within the first six months. And the same sentence to each of you, because you are equally guilty.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

THE KAM TAI V. LO SHAU AND LO LEUNG.

In this case plaintiffs claimed \$500 damages for trespass in that the defendant did enter upon their premises at No. 66, Kowloon Kai, Central Kowloon City, and seized thereon the plaintiff's furniture, fixtures and goods, and closed their shop. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. K. Holmes represented the defendants. His Honour delivered judgment for the defendant with costs.

Wednesday, 21st December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

TSANG TSUNG V. TSANG YUNG-TAK.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared on behalf of the plaintiff, who claimed \$980 from the defendant, due to him on a promissory note.

The defendant was absent, judgment, accordingly, being given for the plaintiff with costs.

HO CHAN V. LO FO, TRADING AS SHUI ON.

The plaintiff claimed \$40.30 owing to him by the defendant on account of work done.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. Brutton's office) for the defendant.

At the request of Mr. Otto Kong Sing His Honour allowed the plaintiff to amend the amount claimed to \$39.39.

The plaintiff then called witnesses to prove that the defendant, who was a contractor at the new shipyard at Quarry Bay, owed him the amount he claimed; he was a stonemason and had worked for the defendant.

The defendant contended that he was not the master of the Shui On and therefore did not owe the money.

It was proved, however, that he was the master, and Mr. Smith called upon him to show cause why he should not be committed to prison for contempt of court—having wilfully committed perjury in court.

The man's statement being unsatisfactory he was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour.

Mr. Edwin Mackintosh, of 77, Lancaster-gate, W., and of Ickleford Manor, Hitchin, Herts, of the firms of John Swire and Sons and Butterfield and Swire, of 8, Billiter-square, E.C., and of Hongkong and Japan, merchants and shipowners, who died on August 11 last, left estate of the gross value of £259,359, the net personalty being sworn at £257,154.

Thursday, 22nd December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED MURDER.

Charles Smith, age 20, unemployed seaman, fixed abode U.S.A.; Erik Hogman, age 22, unemployed seaman, fixed abode Finland; William Nason, age 17, unemployed seaman, fixed abode U.S.A., were charged with having, on the 27th November last, in Victoria Harbour, wilfully and maliciously with aforethought, killed Chan Yee. The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, and the prisoners were defended as follows:—The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, for Charles Smith; Mr. Norman Ferrers, for Erik Hogman; Mr. H. S. Calthrop, for William Nason. Mr. O. D. Thomson instructed in each instance.

The prisoners plead not guilty. The following jurors were sworn, eight others having first been challenged:—Messrs. C. H. W. Kew (foreman), S. J. Michael, T. Banks, C. G. S. Mackie, J. Johnstone, R. H. King and G. M. Smith.

In his opening statement for the Crown the Attorney-General said that the present charge against the prisoners was that of murdering a woman called Chan Yee, by drowning, on the night of the 27th November last. He then proceeded to outline the case, but said he would defer any comment till after they had heard the evidence. The law, he thought, was simple in the case. There are only two points that could possibly arise. Where several persons joined together for an unlawful purpose, intending to resist such as may oppose them, they were all guilty of murder if death should be caused in the prosecution of that purpose. He should certainly prove that the prisoners set out on an expedition with the unlawful common purpose of stealing a sampan and of resisting the crew in case the crew endeavoured to defeat their purpose. He did not suggest for a moment that their sole object was to kill. The worst murderer they had had—Peace—was hanged for a murder which, it was clear, he did not set out to do, but he set out for an unlawful purpose. It was also immaterial whether the deceased were actually thrown overboard or whether they jumped overboard, dreading the prisoners' violence. The evidence, he thought, was perfectly clear that they were thrown overboard, but even supposing there were any doubts about the fact the prisoners would be responsible. The prisoners had been here for many months. He did not wish to say more on that point, but the men belonged to a class which was becoming a curse to the community. Acting for the Crown, he did not desire to unduly press the charge against the unhappy men, but he thought that when the jury had heard the evidence they would not be able to entertain doubt that they were guilty of the charge.

Kwok Tai Chan said—I am a sampan man. I owned a sampan on the 27th November—a third class passenger sampan. I have not seen it since the 27th November. Formerly I lived on it with my wife, Chan Yee—the deceased—Kwok Su, a son sixteen years old, Kwok Nui, a daughter aged thirteen, Kwok Sai Lo, a son nine years old, and Kwok Pit, a daughter aged four. On the evening of Sunday, the 27th, at about a quarter to nine, I saw the prisoners. I was in the street near the Praya. My sampan was lying off the Praya wharf, anchored a little way off. She was close to Pottinger Street Wharf. The wind that night was light from the north-east: there was a spring tide towards the west. When I saw the prisoners they were standing together on the Praya wharf. I asked "You want sampan?" and he (Charles Smith) said "Yes." "What ship, please?" I said; he said "Want go four-mast American, California, China." He said "How much charge?" My say "Too dark, wind three men, eighty cents." He said "Sixty," and we agree to seventy cents. He (Smith) carried on the whole conversation. He told me to get the boat alongside, and they went down and got on board. The first prisoner climbed down by the mast; the second and

third jumped into the boat. I wanted to go but he (Smith) said I need not go, so I did not go. I walked on the wharf and saw the boat off, and saw one of the prisoners hoist up a sail; then they disappeared, heading towards the China. I waited for the return of my boat. A man named Fung Tsat Sing and my son Kwok Su came up to me and made a report; my son was carrying a jacket which was wet. He was wearing dry clothes, but his hair was wet. I went up to Central Police Station with him and made a report. I had given my wife \$20 on the previous Friday, but do not know if she had any on the sampan. I next saw Kwok Nui and Kwok Sai Lo, my other children, on the next Friday. They were in the Detective Department at Central Police Station. That was at about ten o'clock in the morning. I have never since the night in question seen my wife and other child alive. On the Friday at about noon I saw the dead body of my wife at the Water Police Station, Kowloon. I saw the dead body of Kwok Pit, my daughter, next day at the same place. A day or two afterwards I was taken in the gaol to see if I could identify the prisoners. There were about twenty in a row, but I only identified one (Smith). I recognise this (a looking glass); it is my property. It was in my sampan on the night of the 27th November. I recognise this (a broken piece of a tea-cup stand); it was in the stern of the sampan on the night the prisoners went away. That is my son; that my daughter; and that my daughter. They were three of my four children on the sampan that night.

By the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I had left my boat a little over an hour when I first saw the prisoners. I was standing about three or four cheung from my boat. I did not meet any of my friends during that hour. First of all I bought some fruit, and then was looking for business. I did not notice any Europeans passing by during that hour, though I was looking for them; and I saw no constables. I first saw the first prisoner coming from the direction of the German Theatre. It was very dark. I looked into the sampan and saw these exhibits before the prisoners left.

Kwok Su, son of the first witness, in his evidence said:—We went out rowing, but the foreigners put up the sail. I was in the bow rowing; my mother was steering in the stern, also my two sisters; my nine-year-old brother was asleep in the main hold. I continued rowing after the sail was put up. First of all I saw one of the prisoners pressing my mother down. Next, another of the prisoners pressed my sister down; I was pressed down too, by that prisoner (William Nason). First of all Nason was sitting down in the well, and then he came forward. He put his two hands around my neck. He bit me on the head just above the ear. He cut my leg with a small knife. He had not the knife in his hand when he first attacked me; he got it during the struggle. The struggle lasted some time; about half an hour. He was trying to tie my feet with a cord. Finally, he threw me overboard. I swam towards the American steamer, and a boat came to where I was and picked me up. I shouted out "Save life." I clung on to the rudder of the American steamer (one funnel and three masts). I was about half an hour in the water. I told the sampan people what had happened. They were on their way to Yaumati, but turned around and came to Hongkong. I got dry clothes on the sampan, and was brought to where my father was. My mother and Kwok Pit were still on board when I was thrown overboard. I have never seen my mother alive since. I was taken to the gaol to identify the prisoners. There were numerous foreigners put in a row; I identified the third prisoner (William Nason). When I was thrown overboard I was near the Austrian Lloyd steamer.

By Mr. Norman Ferrers—I do not recognise the second prisoner (Charles Smith). I can only speak to the third prisoner.

By Mr. Calthrop—When produced, the knife was open. I was struggling the whole time. I did not get near the side of the boat. At the Police Court I said the Austrian Lloyd steamer was only five sampan lengths off, and the boat that picked me up only two sampan lengths off. It would be difficult to fall overboard.

Kwok Nui said that she walked forward, fell into the hold, and became unconscious. She had a knock. She went ashore.

Fung Tsat Sing, the boatman who picked up the boy, gave corroborative evidence. He was on his way from near the Harbour-Office to his usual anchorage at Yaumati, and, when near the American mail, heard the boy shouting out "Save life." He did not see the sampan from which the boy had been thrown. The American steamer had one yellow funnel and three masts.

Chang Sui, a farmer from Cheung-sha, near Pui-o, in Lantau Island, said:—I was picking cockles on the shore and found two children near some rocks. I took them to the village and kept them for two or three days, and then took them to the police station at Cheung Chow (Dumbell Island) in consequence of what they had told me. The girl had a wound on her right eye. I saw a strange sampan, which was afterwards smashed to pieces by the sea.

Another man from Lantau gave similar evidence.

Kwong Luk said: I am a fisherman from Sham Shui Kok, Lantau Island, near Capsuimun. I saw three foreigners at my place on the 1st December. That was at four o'clock in the afternoon. I was working. One of them asked me for some tobacco. I gave them some and offered them rice. They did not accept the food. They did not pay any money. I identify the first two prisoners (Smith and Hogman). Later, I was cooking my rice, and one of them came up to me with a twenty-cent piece, and pointed to my boat. By gestures they indicated that they wanted to go to the mainland in my boat. This I refused and they went away in my boat. I went to Cho Fat, the owner of the boat, and three of us got into a second boat and chased them as far as Motaisan (The Brothers) and then caught them. Then the men got into our boat, and were landed on the mainland. On the fourth of December I went to the gaol and identified two of the prisoners (Smith and Hogman).

So Fat, another fisherman, who had taken part in the chase, gave evidence. They landed the three men near Castle Peak.

P.-C. Walter Edwards said:—On the afternoon of the 3rd December I found the body of a child about fifty yards west of Kellet Island, and brought it to the Water Police Station. The body was identified on the same evening by the child's father—that man (first witness).

By Mr. Ferrers—The clothes were not in any way torn as far as I could see.

P.-C. George Bird said:—On the morning of the 2nd December I found the body of a woman near Kellet Island, and brought it to the Water Police Station.

By Mr. Ferrers—The body was naked.

Wong Yuen Sun, coxswain of No. 5 Police Launch, gave corroborative evidence.

Police Inspector Withers said:—On the night of the 27th November I was on duty at Central Police Station, and his report was made by a man and his son—those. The boy's clothes were dry, but he had a wet jacket with him, and his hair was wet. On the 2nd December I brought them to the Water Police Station to identify the body of the woman.

By Mr. Ferrers—The boy complained that he had been bitten on the head and otherwise assaulted. At that time he said nothing about injury to his ankle, or about the knife.

Re-examined—He complained of having been thrown overboard.

Dr. William Hunter, M.O. in charge of post-mortem examinations, said:—On the 3rd December I made an examination of the body of Chan Yee. From the examination I should say she had been dead about a week, and cause of death, drowning. I also examined the body of a child. I should say the cause of death and length of time in this case was the same as in the former. Wounds immediately before death would not have been visible.

By Mr. Ferrers—I could not see any marks of violence on the body of the woman.

P.-S. Kerr said:—On the morning of the 3rd December I was on the shore at Sha Kong in Deep Bay, and saw the three prisoners going along the shore towards Mong Ching. With several Indian police constables I arrested the prisoners. They turned back, but could not get away. On one of them (Hogman) was found a looking-glass

and a small sum of money, something less than two dollars. A knife was found on the person of Nason and a razor on Smith.

By Mr. Ferrers—The arrest was made three or four miles from Chinese territory. The prisoners did not try to get away. They were following a line that would have brought them into Chinese territory.

Re-examined—They could not have got away as I had Indian constables both before and behind them.

The Chief Detective Inspector, Mr. Hanson, said:—At about 9 a.m. on the 28th November, I first saw the boy. He had a fresh mark on the right side of the head, and a long incised wound on the right leg above the ankle. I took it to have been inflicted by a knife. The boatman who identified the first prisoner did not make any false identifications. The man who identified the other prisoners picked out one wrong one. Some days later I went with the little girl to Lantau Island and found this exhibit (the piece of the tea stand).

Mr. Hanson here read the statements made by the prisoners when charged at the police station. These have already been reported in the *Daily Press*.

Dr. Ho Kai objected to William Nason's statement on the ground that the statement of one prisoner cannot be taken as evidence against another prisoner. Parts of the statement ought to be expunged.

His Lordship—You cannot leave it out altogether.

Dr. Ho Kai—I beg to quote "Russell on Crime."

His Lordship—Before you proceed I must make this fact clear:—was the statement of each prisoner made in the presence of the other prisoners?

Mr. Hanson—No, they made their statements separately.

His Lordship—If they had made their statements, the one in the presence of the other, an objection, for which there is authority, would arise, but this point does not arise because they tell me that they were apart.

Dr. Ho Kai—I said that if these statements could not be excluded they would, in each case, only be regarded as evidence against the man who made them.

His Lordship—I shall tell the jury that each man's admission is to be regarded against himself only.

Dr. Ho Kai submitted that it would be a pity to allow the jury to hear any part of a statement made, perhaps without any grounds whatever, against another prisoner. He asked His Lordship to reject anything in each of the statements applying to others than the man who made them.

Mr. Ferrers raised the same question, saying that a man might make a statement affecting others only.

His Lordship overruled the objection—if a man did as Mr. Ferrers suggested it would act as evidence against himself.

William Nason's statements read out at the Police Court were read.

Mr. Ferrers objected to Erik Hogman's statement being admitted as evidence because it was translated from the Swedish language and taken down in English, and not taken down in Swedish. He said that in the courts at Hong-kong there was great carelessness regarding interpretations.

His Lordship overruled this objection for the time being; Mr. Ferrers would have time before this morning to prove, if such were the case, that the Swedish interpreter was not a competent one.

Dr. Ho Kai—With regard to the statements made before the magistrate I repeat the objection I made before.

His Lordship noted this and the statements were read.

P.-S. Boole gave evidence as to the position of the steamers mentioned on the night of the 27th November.

The Attorney-General—That closes the case for the Crown, My Lord.

In adjourning the case His Lordship said he was very sorry, but he would have to give instructions to the usher to find the jurors beds for the night. After precedents being quoted, however, His Lordship allowed the jurors to go home on the express understanding that they would not discuss the case with anyone outside.

Friday, 23rd December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

BEFORE SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY
(CHIEF JUSTICE)

R. v. SMITH, HOGMAN, AND NASON.

The case against Charles Smith, age 20, unemployed seaman, fixed abode U.S.A.; Erik Hogman, age 22, unemployed seaman, fixed abode Finland; and William Nason, age 17, unemployed seaman, fixed abode U.S.A., was continued. The prisoners were charged with having, on the 27th November last, in Victoria Harbour, wilfully and maliciously with aforethought, killed Chan Yee.

As before, the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, and the prisoners were defended as follows:—The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, for Charles Smith; Mr. Norman Ferrers, for Erik Hogman; Mr. H. S. Calthrop, for William Nason. Mr. O. D. Thomson instructed in each instance. The jury was as follows:—Messrs. C. H. W. Kew (foreman), S. J. Michael, T. Banks, C. G. S. Mackie, J. Johnstone, R. H. King and G. M. Smith.

The Attorney-General closed the prosecution on behalf of the Crown.

Mr. Ferrers—My Lord, I should like to cross-examine, as to his competence in the English language, the Swedish interpreter.

This was done.

No witnesses were called for the defence.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai in addressing the jury said that the prisoners stood indicted on the serious crime of murder, the punishment of which was death. They had to deal with the case without prejudices, and in the spirit of English law, but where there was doubt, the prisoners were to have the whole benefit of it. If the Crown failed in any instance in fully establishing any particular point they were quite justified in giving the benefit of the whole doubt to the prisoners. (Dr. Ho Kai here quoted authorities.) He did not suggest that the prisoners were not guilty of a serious crime, but if it had not been proved that they were guilty of wilful murder, according to the definition, they were at liberty to return a verdict of manslaughter. They must consider if these men actually intended killing certain persons, as had been represented by the prosecution. It had not been shown entirely that that was the prisoners' intention. The Crown had even then a large number of witnesses. It was not necessary for him to go through the evidence of them all, as most of the witnesses could simply testify to circumstances which actually occurred before or after the alleged act of murder. There had been over a dozen witnesses, but the most material ones only numbered about three:—the boatman, his son and daughter. Dr. Ho Kai here alluded to the evidence, and went on to discredit some of the evidence on the grounds of the witnesses not being certain about what they had said, and stated that the evidence went to show more lack of motive for the men committing murder than otherwise. He submitted, after having dealt with the more important evidence in a detailed manner, that the Crown had not shown beyond reasonable doubt that the prisoners had committed murder. They might have gone so far as to show some illegal act and that death was caused accidentally as a result of this. If the prisoners had had any intention at all it was only that of seizing the boat to go to Singapore in. His learned friend had tried to draw a parallel between the present case and that of Charles Pearce. He submitted that there was no comparison between the two. Here they had three young men—dare-devil men who must have been afflicted by some madness—ranging in age from 17 to 22, who thought they could go to Singapore in a sampan; they could not be compared with the notorious Pearce. Aforethought had not been shown, and if death had resulted it could only be taken as an accident, for which a verdict of manslaughter would be more correct than murder. He was sure they would exercise charity and mercy in giving the prisoners the benefit of every doubt. According to British law a man was innocent till he was proved guilty.

Mr. Ferrers said that the prisoners were standing on the threshold of life—lives just beginning and which in God's mercy might yet do good. The jury's duty was a very grave one. The prisoners were not persons who did not choose to earn a living by honest labour; they were people who were only too anxious to get work if they could. They wanted to get to Singapore, where it would have been possible for them to live. It was impossible for them to get anything to do in China; they had either to resort to fraud or face starvation. Mr. Ferrers drew on the suffering the prisoners must have gone through when destitute in Hongkong before being driven in desperation to try and leave in a sampan. It was fearful for a white man to have to crawl about the streets of Hongkong in this condition, knowing himself to be of the superior race, yet any of the Chinese could get their rice while he was threatened with starvation. The more he looked into the case the more hopeful he became. It was in the power of the Jury to bring in a verdict of manslaughter.

His Lordship—If the facts justified it.

Mr. Ferrers, continuing, said it would be an insult to the intellect of the Jury and his own to say that the prisoners had not committed a crime which deserved severe punishment, but they did not deserve the greatest of punishment. The sailors were absolutely destitute in Hongkong, and determined to get out of it. He asked them just to consider what that meant—to go to sea in an open boat without food, water or provisions. Mr. Ferrers drew at length on the terrors of the sea in an open boat, saying it was not as if they did not know of it—they were sailors. He did not know anything more terrible than the exposure these men were about to submit themselves to, but these men considered it to be even more terrible to be on the beach in Hongkong. They would rather run any risk than remain on these shores. The Government of Hongkong had a duty towards white inhabitants. It was awful to consider the position these men had been in. When once they got here they were just as firmly in prison as if surrounded by a granite wall—how were they to get out of it? If the money then being spent by the Government in their defence had been devoted to helping them to do this, the prisoners could have got to a white-man's country. Any work they could have done, a Chinaman would have done for half the money. The Government did nothing. Only a few days ago some people tried to walk to Shanghai—this was desperate enough. For these people it was a very inhospitable country, where ninety-nine per cent. of the people, according to their view, were practically savages. The prisoners were driven to their crime. Mr. Ferrers concluded his address by referring to the season, making a pathetic appeal to the jury for mercy. He also spoke of Nason's relations in America anxiously longing for his return.

Mr. Calthrop, after endeavouring to show that it was a case of manslaughter and not of murder, suggested that prejudice had been displayed by the Attorney-General when he had said that the men belonged to a class which was becoming a curse to the Colony. The men were being tried not for being beachcombers, but for murder. He concluded his remarks by an appeal for mercy.

The Attorney-General repeated the remarks he had made in his opening speech. The three prisoners set out with a common unlawful purpose of stealing a sampan and overpowering the crew, resisting, if necessary, any opposition on the part of the crew. The death of the sampan woman and her child clearly occurred in the prosecution of that purpose, and this constituted murder. He commented on the absence of any attempt being made at rescue on the part of the prisoners. He then went into the details of the case, treating each prisoner's statement separately.

The Chief Justice, in summing up, said it was unnecessary for him to say that the jury were not to be prejudiced by the fact, if it be a fact, that the prisoners belonged to the class which is known

as beachcombers. That was not to the point, nor was it at all to the point that the Government of Hongkong, if it was a fact, did nothing to relieve the necessities of the floating population called beachcombers. It was altogether beside the issue, which was whether or not the prisoners brought certain persons to their death in Hongkong harbour under such circumstances that amounted to the crime of murder. It was also absolutely immaterial that they were, as stated, below that age which the law assigned as exempting prisoners from criminality. One of the prisoners was of full man's estate—22—the other was 20 and the third 17. It was undoubtedly sad to find persons of such tender years in the position of having to answer for their lives upon the charge preferred against them, but that again was a matter entirely foreign to the practical part the jury had to play in the case. The prisoners were quite old enough to know right from wrong. It was also beside the issue that they had been called upon to try the case at Christmas time. The duties of the jury were precisely the same at Christmas as at any other time. What season of the year it happened to be should have no effect upon them. They were to give their verdict according to the evidence and not according to the season. The fact that the prisoner Nason, if it was a fact, as alleged by the Counsel, had parents thousands of miles away actually waiting his return should not have been put to them. It would have been equally improper for the Attorney-General to remind the jury that the sampan man stood on the Praya waiting the return of the sampan and his family. All they had to do was to consider the facts in a clear calm mind, free from all emotions whatever. The Attorney-General laid down a very clear exposition of the law that bore upon the facts that had been proved in the case. He had told them that when several persons associated themselves together for an unlawful purpose, intending at the time to resist by force all who opposed them when carrying out that purpose, and the result was loss of life, then it was murder and not manslaughter. Any other view of the law would render the lives of people in a community in which such a reading held force insecure in the extreme and there would be a direct incentive to the perpetration of cases of violence in the furtherance of unlawful purposes. To say that a burglar who broke into a house in the dead of night intending to steal money and who subjected a person to such violence that he either died on the spot or, in fleeing from it, killed himself—was not to be found guilty of murder because he only set out to rob would be to state a proposition which would be a premium upon crime and render life absolutely insecure. Such was not the English law. The law of England and the law of this country was that which had been put before them by the Attorney-General. It was absolutely necessary for the safety of a community that such should be the law. If it was true that these men did what the evidence showed, they were guilty of murder. It was immaterial whether the prisoners actually threw the woman and child overboard or whether they jumped overboard; it was not necessary to take the child up in arms and throw it overboard. If it fell over by fright it would be quite sufficient to sustain a charge of murder. Supposing the boy, after his struggle with Nason, had jumped overboard and had not sufficient strength to cling to the rudder of the steamer and was drowned, would anyone in his senses say that Nason would not be guilty of his murder? The plea that the deaths were due to accident disappeared instantly, when they remembered that the men made no attempt to rescue the people. If he (His Lordship) frightened a child into the water and hoisted his sail and went away there would be only one conclusion as to his intention, and surely that was that he intended the child to take its chance of swimming or not. That was the only opinion to arrive at with regard to the prisoners.

After being absent from the Court for about five minutes the jury returned a verdict of guilty, recommending that mercy be shown to the prisoners.

The prisoners had no reason to give why His Lordship should not pass sentence of death.

His Lordship, before passing sentence of death on the prisoners, said that they had said everything, and everything that could be said for them had been said. It was extremely sad to see three young men in the position they occupied. Their acts had been of the most outrageous that had ever been perpetrated in the annals of the Colony. Each man was a disgrace to the country to which he belonged. He could not deal with the recommendation of the jury, but he would forward it to the Governor to exercise his prerogative of mercy. It was his duty to tell them, however, that he could hold out no hope.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Friday, 16th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. BARNES-LAWRENCE
R.N. (HARBOUR MASTER).

ALLEGED CONTRABAND.

Bertram Conway Edmonds, master of the British s.s. *Craigearn*, charged twelve men with wilfully disobeying his lawful commands on board the said ship, and with refusing to proceed to sea since the 15th inst., in Victoria Harbour.

Complainant stated that the defendants refused duty by reason of his ship conveying, as they alleged, contraband of war. Six of the men, five firemen and a donkeyman, refused work on the morning of the 15th and the remainder yesterday (Friday) morning. The cargo consisted of rice, sugar, oil cake, castor oil, brass, cotton and other small items of general merchandise. He had no reason to suppose that any of these goods were intended for warlike purposes. A statement had been given to him by the charterers showing that the cargo was not intended for a belligerent power.

The statement which was handed in and filed read as follows:—With reference to the cargo of rice, sugar and general merchandise, shipped by your steamer hence to Kobe and Yokohama, we hereby declare that the whole of same is consigned to private individuals and firms in Japan, and not to any belligerent power.

(Sd.) HOONG FAT AND Co., Charterers.

Continuing, witness said he had had no other trouble with the crew. By the articles of agreement they were bound to serve within 75 degrees north latitude and 60 degrees south latitude to any port.

One of the defendants, P. Lasites, carpenter of the ship, speaking on behalf of them all, said that they did not refuse to do their duty, but refused to carry contraband of war because they did not sign for that purpose. They refused to go to a war country.

By the Court the man said that under the circumstances of the Captain's explanations regarding these goods the five able seamen among the defendants were willing to return to duty if the master would undertake to guarantee them the loss of their clothing and personal effects in the event of their losing them.

The other defendants claimed similar treatment.

The complainant said that there was nothing whatever in the agreement as to making good the loss of effects. He was not willing to accede to their request.

Hon. Capt. Barnes-Lawrence (to complainant)—Before dealing with your men I put before you the position in which your case stands. Your vessel is chartered to convey certain goods to two ports in Japan, Kobe and Yokohama. Certain of these goods, such as rice and sugar, may be regarded as "conditional" contraband. That is to say, they are not considered contraband if the transaction in regard to their use is a purely commercial one and not done with intent of assisting in the war, but simply for the purposes of gain. To create an offence a belligerent destination is essential. In this instance I hold in my hand a statement from the charterers to the effect that the vessel's cargo is consigned to private individuals and firms in Japan, and is not intended for the use of the belligerents.

Turning to the men—This being the case your refusal of duty cannot be entertained. By the articles of agreement you are bound to continue on this service, as you are not called upon to carry out any duties outside its provisions. I give you the opportunity to reconsider your act, which will, if persisted in, involve serious consequences. I understand that the master is prepared to withdraw the charge if you now return to your duty.

The defendants discussed the matter, and finally said that they would return if the captain would give them an assurance that their personal effects would be made good in the event of any accident to the same during the voyage.

The Captain consented.

A guarantee was drawn up and handed to the carpenter. The charge was withdrawn and the men returned to their duty.

Tuesday, 20th December.

BEFORE MR. B. R. H. TAYLOR (ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTER.)

A COLLISION ENQUIRY.

An enquiry was held into the circumstances connected with a collision between the launches *Hapag* (Hamburg-America Line launch) and *E Wo* (owned by Mr. Chan Tsun Kwai), in the waters of the Colony on the 11th inst. Mr. P. W. Goldring watched the case on behalf of the *E Wo*, and Mr. Russel on behalf of the *Hapag*.

The master of the *Hapag* said he was about to proceed to Queen's Statue Wharf. He had been anchored off Yaumati wharf. After getting his anchor aweigh he saw two Chinese junks anchored on his starboard bow; as the *E Wo* was behind these he could not see her. He was steaming at a very slow rate of speed. When abreast the junks one of the crew shouted out that there was a junk on his starboard bow. He then saw the *E Wo*, about eighty yards off, and went full speed astern, blowing three blasts on his whistle to indicate that he was giving way to the *E Wo*. The *E Wo* gave a long blast. She ported her helm at first, altering her course about a point, and then resumed her original course, striking the *Hapag* abreast the boiler on the starboard side. The *Hapag* had sternway on her.

The master of the *E Wo* said he blew a short blast meaning that he was porting his helm, and the *Hapag* blew a short blast in reply. When the launches were about fifty feet apart the *Hapag* blew two blasts and starboarded across his bows. She was going full speed ahead. When he saw this he went full speed astern, but too late to avoid collision.

After going very fully into the matter, Mr. Taylor said he found the story of the *E Wo* entirely improbable; that of the *Hapag* was not altogether satisfactory. He considered that there was negligent navigation on the part of Cheung Kam, master of the *E Wo*, and suspended his certificate for a month.

Wednesday, 21st December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

NON-OBSERVANCE OF THE RULES OF THE ROAD.

Sergeant Aries of the Water Police charged Leung Fook, Master of Naval Yard launch "68," with unlawfully failing to hoist the regulation towing lights, whilst towing a lighter at 12.30 a.m., also with failing to observe the rules of the road on the 17th inst., in the waters of the Colony.

Sergeant Aries deposed: At 12.30 a.m. on the 17th instant I was steering No. 6 Police launch east from Blake Pier. When some 50 yards clear of the Naval yard I saw defendant's launch coming from a N.E. direction, and making a straight line for the entrance. I kept on my course, and defendant's launch kept on its course. Both met about ten yards from the entrance. The defendant did not attempt to alter his course. I followed him and found that on his port side was a lighter which he had in tow. No regulation towing lights were hoisted.

By the Court:—The steaming lights in both launches were showing. No sound signals were made use of.

Leung Tuk, master of the launch, said: I saw the Police launch steaming down from Blake Pier. She was on my starboard beam steaming along the shore. I blew two long blasts on my whistle to show the coxswain of the Police launch that I was going to cross her bows. I did not alter my helm at all. It did not occur to me to go astern, as I had a vessel in tow.

By the Court: The vessel was a lighter belonging to the dockyard. She was being taken back from H.M.S. *Albion*. I know that extra lights are shown when towing vessels. I was showing two white lights on this occasion. I am not aware that the regulations say the lights should be six feet apart.

Charles Aries, recalled: I am positive I saw only one light. It was about 10 feet above the deck.—On the first charge the defendant was discharged, and on the second fined \$5.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

18th December.

KWANGSI REBELS.

It is reported that the armies under the command of Generals Wong Wan Ko, Ho Yao Shan, and U Shing Kak have had a big fight with the rebels in Kwangsi and gained a victory. The rebels, and their chief Wong Son Wo, were surrounded by the mandarin soldiers in Sam Tun for two days and two nights. The rebel chief Wong at last succeeded in effecting his escape, but another rebel chief, Luk A Fat, has been captured. The rebels were armed with quick-firing rifles supplied to them from Singapore. Upon these facts being reported to the Throne by the Viceroy Shum the Empress Dowager expressed satisfaction, and sent some presents consisting of valuable jewellery to Their Excellencies the Viceroy Shum, and Li, the Governor of Kwangsi. Meantime she ordered that the rebels who had surrendered themselves should be leniently treated and not punished with cruelty.

H.E. SHUM.

His Excellency Shum Chou Hun arrived at Wuchow on the 13th inst. to deal with some important official business. Nearly all the time he was detained in Kwai Chow. He is now living in the yamen of the Salt Commissioner in Wuchow.

THE INDEMNITY.

Lately the Viceroy Shum has sent a memorial to the Throne referring to Canton's contribution to the war indemnity. The yearly amount was four hundred and eighty thousand taels taken from the Wai Shing, a lottery monopoly; it was to be paid quarterly. It has been regularly paid since the 22nd year of Kwangsu, but of late, on account of the abolition of the military examination, and of alteration in civil literary examination, there has been some difficulty in raising the amount. This year the indemnity for the last two quarters, amounting to ninety six thousand taels, has not been paid. His Excellency requests that the Board of Revenue be ordered to pay this amount so as not to cause any disappointment.

EVADING LIKIN SQUEEZES.

For the last few years it has been customary for Chinese steam launch owners to pay foreigners a small sum for acting as figure heads, to fly foreign flags on their launches, to avoid the official squeezes, and to gain facility in passing the likin barrier. Of late it has come to the knowledge of the foreign Consuls, and they communicated this fact to the Chinese officials. The latter communicated with the I.M. Commissioner, and the Commissioner has issued an order to prohibit all steam launches and boats not owned by foreigners from flying foreign flags under severe penalty, as it is against the law of China.

BANDITTI.

As a sequel to the story of robbery by local banditti in Sui Tung in the prefecture of Kocho—as reported in my letter of the 12th November last I have gathered further news. After the robbery all shops in that market town were closed, and it was almost deserted for about a month. When the Magistrate of Tin Pak went with soldiers, and advised the

shopkeepers there to re-open their shops and resume business transactions, they did so, but in fear and trembling. Every day they heard of rumours of robberies in the neighbouring villages. Some of the traders had removed their families to Canton, Hongkong, or Macao. One day being the day of a fair, someone cried out "Robbery." The traders and buyers in the fair ran, throwing down their money and wares in the street, some falling down, trampling upon each other, and breaking their heads. The traders closed their shops again, and the vagabonds who raised the false alarm seized this opportunity to pick up a large quantity of goods and money. As last time, one third of the robbers came from other districts and the rest were vagabonds of the place, who availed themselves of the opportunity to rob.

SQUEEZING PRISONERS.

Last year, when the ex-magistrate Pui King Fuk was in Nam Hoi, he permitted his runners, police, and underlings to squeeze and ill-treat the prisoners in the house of detention. After his time, another magistrate took up the appointment and introduced some reforms to better the conditions of the prisoners; but of late this evil practice has begun to grow again. In case the relatives and friends of the prisoner bribe the keepers of the gaol, the prisoner is not ill-treated, but has every convenience. If no bribe be paid he is put to cangue, and kept on the point of starvation. The bribe to be paid varies from twenty dollars to three hundred dollars according to the circumstances of the prisoner. A slight or pretended illness is reported as a serious illness, so as to avoid trial. If no bribe be paid, the prisoner, however sick, may lie almost half dead and the keeper takes no notice of him.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

22nd December.

THE VICEROY.

The Viceroy, who lately went to Wuchow—his base—from Kweilin, is about to leave that place for Louchow, where the mutiny took place early in this year. He intends to thoroughly quell the rebellion in the Louchow district, and then to proceed to Kweilin, which is free from trouble. His next visit will be paid to Pak Sik, after which he will return to Canton.

STUDENTS.

Cheung, the head of the Educational Department here, has gone to Kwangai to visit the Viceroy. During his absence the Provincial Treasurer, Yu, acts in his stead, and he has just sent twenty-five students from the Military College to Japan, where they will study for some years. This military college was only established this year under foreign tuition, and this I believe is the first batch of its students to go abroad. No doubt in future many men will be sent to Japan, whence they will return with a good education. A good many civilians have been sent abroad—both to Japan and to Europe—this year, and the Viceroy evidently means to keep to this policy.

GAOLS.

The Prefect of Kwong Chow Fu has lately given orders that all the gaols in his prefecture should be inspected, and a report made to him. It may be interesting to know that in the Pun Yu prison, which receives criminals from a large district to the east, there are 299 prisoners of whom 15 are women. Ninety-four of these are imprisoned for grave offences, most of them of the class "highway robber."

TRIADS.

Protection has been applied for by a district a little to the south of Canton; it is complained that the number of soldiers sent as a guard on a former occasion was not large enough to keep the disorderly characters in check. In most parts of the province the respectable people band together to protect themselves. When on a trip recently into the country east of Canton, I was told that the Triads were becoming very powerful and oppressive. The villagers have armed themselves with revolvers and smooth-bores, and placards are seen posted up along the road, urging the people to unite against the robbers.

PROGRESSIVE WORKMEN.

I hear that some time ago the silversmiths here introduced the use of steam into their trade,

with good results, and now, encouraged by this, the glass-workers are doing the same. When the forces of steam and electricity begin to come into play here, there should be some important developments in local manufactures.

CHINESE POETRY.

LAST NIGHT'S LECTURE BY MR. J. DYER BALL.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball on Dec. 21 lectured on the "Rhythm and Rhyme in Celestial Climes" at the Y.M.C.A.

In his opening remarks the speaker said that though the Chinese seemed so prosaic, so matter-of-fact, that at first it seems to many impossible that under the so-called yellow skin there beats a heart that throbs in unison with poetic thought and fancy, as a matter of fact the Chinese ordinarily were passionately fond of poetry; they positively revelled in it. Nature is doubtless in a mood for poetic inspiration in the East, but was man responsive where the grind for the dollar and the piling up of the paltry cash necessitated such an endless round carried on from early dawn to late at night? In answer to this question—the Chinese have been worshippers of Nature for centuries and millenniums, both in the actual and figurative sense of the term. In this land of poetry every man of education was taught to compose verse in his own language as English boys are taught to write Latin verse. As in ancient Greece, so in ancient China—poetry was an older offspring of literature than philosophy. In India there was much of epic poetry, but in China none; historical romance took its place. There was much dramatic poetry, but though Chinese actors were known as "Children of the peach orchard" a thousand years ago, our modern stage was far in advance of theirs. The Chinese memory was highly trained, but the Chinese were not above accepting the aids which poetry lent to memory, so didactic verse was common, the subject matter being thrown into this form simply as a mnemonic aid. The Mandarin sometimes versified his proclamations so that they might attract more notice in the minds of the people, and so that they might be the more easily remembered. The oracles in the temples had their utterances written in poetry. Lyric poetry was what the Chinese were particularly strong in. It was very difficult to render some of the masterpieces of Chinese poetry into English. European languages were very similar, and a more or less literal translation from them into English was possible. Even in such cases, however, some of the beauties were lost; but when two languages were so dissimilar as English and Chinese the attempt was often disastrous. Therefore, much Chinese poetry was not capable of being translated. The study of Chinese poetry would show that the Chinese poets were of the same flesh and blood as ourselves, inasmuch that they had the same thought and feelings and were moved by the same emotions and desires; that, in fact, their hearts beat in unison with ours—though seas and continents separated us, there was the same sky overhead, and human nature was the same the wide world over. As in the West, so in the Far East—poetry had risen from a rugged original, when a rapidity of style and irregularity in the use of the embellishments of rhyme and measure were first employed. It was only half the truth to say that Chinese was a monosyllabic language. It was so to a great extent, but there were sufficient diphthongs and short and long pronunciation of words to give an expressive variety to the verse. Added to this was the tonic system, which alone would give a musical cadence to the verse. There were a number of different measures, including the parallelisms so common in Hebrew poetry. One very interesting feature in Chinese poetry was imitative harmony, when the notes of birds were employed to make up a poem, in which the birds appeared to be speaking Chinese. The "Shiking" or "the Book of Odes" was a collection of ancient lyrics. There was nothing pornographic in them, but amongst many Chinese the mere mention of love and love-making was thought to be immoral, and they had given political meaning to many of these national songs of the people. About two-hundred years before Christ a poem called

"The Bird of Fate," bearing a striking resemblance to Edgar Allen Poe's "Raven," was written. Domestic affection appeared in several Chinese poems, though it was thought indelicate to show signs of it in every day life, and deserted wives have also sung their woes. One of the greatest of China's poets was Li Tai-po, who lived in the Tong Dynasty (618—905 A. D.) He had been styled the Pope and the Horace of that age. People blamed the Chinese for callousness towards suffering, especially in the brute creation, but several of their poets wrote in a contrary vein. A famous poet of the Sung Dynasty (1036—1111 A. D.) was Su Tung-po. His works were contained in a hundred and fifteen volumes, and so prized were his poems that some of them were cut in stone. Long poems were almost unknown in China. One of the longest was "Lei San, The Song of the Sorrow Stricken One." The author was a high minister of state who, when his sovereign felt changed towards him, committed suicide. The Dragon Boat Feast was kept in memory of him—it was figurative of trying to recover the body of the lamented minister.

Mr. Dyer Ball gave many illustrations of Chinese poetry, and finished up by instancing a few songs written for children. A translation of the last, and perhaps the prettiest of these, was as follows:—

"My little baby, little boy blue,
Is as sweet as sugar and cinnamon too;
Isn't this precious darling of ours
Sweeter than dates and cinnamon flowers?"

DES VŒUX ROAD FIRE INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on the 20th instant Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz opened an inquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred in a godown at No. 325, Des Vœux Road West, on the 9th instant. Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs Dennys and Bowley's office) appeared on behalf of four Insurance Companies, also on behalf of the Police. Mr. Hastings represented Mr. Ho Li Cho, who is the owner of certain goods in the godown. Mr. Hursthouse said, that as usual in these inquiries, some of the witnesses had turned out to be hostile, and had to be subpoenaed for examination. The godown in question is a small one extending about 25 or 30 feet back from the road, and is 10 or 12 feet in width. It consists of only the ground floor of the premises. The first floor is inhabited by various persons, and their entrance to their flat did not necessitate them going through the godown. When the fire occurred a number of people were sleeping on the first floor. The story goes that some of them were awakened by a noise which sounded as if somebody were knocking against the floor on which they were sleeping. One of the party got up and opened a trap door showing into the godown. Looking through this he saw smoke and flames below. He alarmed the others, and the whole of the people on the floor easily made their escape. The fire was confined to the back part of the shop, where a portion of a window and a few cases of goods were burnt. There were no signs of the flames having burnt the ceiling. In the godown were planks running longitudinally along the floor about two feet apart. The cases of goods were ranged on these planks, so that there was a space of about four inches between the cases and the floor. Various goods were contained in the cases, which were mostly packed with a loose and inflammable kind of shavings. Under one of these cases the Police found a small kerosene lamp in a very peculiar position. It was about a yard under the case; the burner and the reflector were off, and the wick was partially hanging out. Another peculiar circumstance in connection with it was, that although the case under which the lamp was found was slightly burnt, there was no trace of fire near the place where the lamp was picked up. A bottle smelling strongly of kerosene was found under the staircase to the first floor. A large pole was also found reaching up to the rafters of the ceiling. With regard to the noise heard by inhabitants of the first floor, I submit that that noise may have been made by the pole in question. The goods in the godown belong to a man named Ho Li Cho, and so far as can be

ascertained, the insurances are effected in the name of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company. The total amount of insurance is \$35,000, and that appears, judging from the list of goods taken from the books the Police have seen, to be just about double the value of the stocks supposed to be in the godown at the time of the fire. There are very serious discrepancies according to the list of goods supposed to be in the godown. A Mr. Murray and Mr. Ho Li Cho are concerned to a certain extent in these goods.

The first witness was William Davis, Manager of the Commercial Union Insurance Company, who said that part of the goods were insured in his Company to the extent of \$5,000, in the name of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company. He had no hesitation in accepting any insurance from this Company, but would have made inquiries before accepting from a private individual. The application came through the Un On Insurance Company. Edward Henry Murray said: I am a coal and general commission agent. I came out from America with the Chinese Engineering Company about two years ago, and remained with them until they closed up. When Mr. Hawley, managing director of the Company, left here, an arrangement was made whereby Mr. Ho Li Cho was to take over the goods of the Company, valued roughly at \$6,500 Mex. He got control of the goods on August 5th. The balance due then was \$43,000, which was payable in three separate instalments of equal amounts in three, six, and nine months. The first payment has been duly met. Subject to the bills being met on maturity, the stock is the property of Ho Li Cho. Since the fifth of August, when I effected a sale of any of the goods, I gave a delivery order on the godown company. As far as I know, Ho Li Cho is the lessee of the godown at Des Vœux Road. I have the original contracts and copies of bills handed over by the Company to Ho Li Cho. On making up a list of goods in the godown about two months after the settlement, I found it did not tally with the amount of money the Company claimed from Ho Li Cho. I have no books belonging to the Chinese-American Company by which I can work the matter out. According to the papers in my possession there should be considerably more stock than there is. I have never checked the stock in the Des Vœux Road godown. I could not say whether a case of singlets was missing from the godown. There was some jewellery in my office at the time of the fire, consisting of chains, watches, rings, etc. I do not know whether it was brought from the Des Vœux Road godown. I could not say whether any of the stock was in an unsaleable condition.

Hearing continues.

The hearing of this inquiry was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 21st instant, Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs Dennys and Bowley's office) representing the Police and four Insurance Companies, and Mr. Hastings appearing on behalf of Ho Li Cho, the owner of the goods in the godown.

The next witness called was Ho Li Cho, who said:—I am the agent of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company. I was formerly comrade of the Chinese American Commercial Company. When that company ceased to carry on business I took over the stock, the value of which was about \$63,000 or \$64,000. After deducting certain rebates I arranged to pay the Company \$43,000 in three instalments. I did not check the stock as the contracts and invoices were with Mr. Murray. When the West Point godown was hired, some of the goods I took over were removed there. I insured the goods for \$5,000, a further \$4,000, and then \$10,000 in the Un On Insurance Company; \$5,000 in the Commercial Union and \$11,000 in the Meiji Fire Insurance Company. I did not know of the insurance in the latter two companies until the night of the fire. All the insurances I effected were with the Un On. The insurance was increased about a fortnight before the fire on account of a further shipment of goods which was to be put into the godown. There was no list made of the goods transferred to the West Point Godown. The godownkeeper was sleeping in the godown on

the night of the fire. He was the first to inform me of it. Shortly afterwards I handed the book containing a list of goods supposed to be in the godown to the Police. I could not say whether the electrical goods in the godown are saleable. I believe the book handed to the Police contained a correct list of goods in the godown at the time of the fire.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—The last \$16,000 insurance I took out with the Un On Insurance Company. They informed me after the fire that they had transferred the insurance to the Commercial Union and the Meiji Fire Insurance Companies. I required an insurance to cover a quantity of goods that might be in the godown at any time.

Leung Chop said: I am engaged by the Chinese Engineering Company. Prior to my recent trip to Canton I used to sleep in the West Point godown. I was not there on the night of the fire. Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings: I did not go to the godown to sleep, on my return from Canton, because I was told that another man had gone to sleep there.

Wong Ying Chi declared:—I was with Lo Wing Ming at a restaurant at Hollywood Road on the night of the 8th instant. Between twelve and one o'clock he left and went in the direction of West Point.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—I could not say whether Lo Wing Ming was drunk. I do not know whether he won some money in the Wyshing lottery lately.

Hearing continues.

The hearing of this inquiry was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 22nd instant, Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley's office) representing the Police and four Insurance Companies, and Mr. Dixon (of Mr. Hastings' office) appearing on behalf of Ho Li Cho, owner of the goods in the godown.

P. C. Cox, the first witness called, gave evidence as to the position in which the lamp was found under the case in the godown. He did not notice whether the wood of the case was burnt through.

Li Chin Tong, Secretary of the Un On Insurance Company, declared: Ho Li Cho insured certain goods in the West Point godown with the Un On in the name of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company. The total amount of insurance was \$35,000. Subsequently my company re-insured certain of the goods in the Commercial Union and Meiji Fire Insurance Companies. The list of goods put in is the list Ho Li Cho gave me when he effected the insurance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Dixon: Ho Li Cho told me that the list would be copied from the godown book.

Sergeant Watt recalled: One of the cases in the godown was burnt through, and several others were charred on the outside. On opening one case it burst into flame inside. From the appearance of the case it did not look as though the fire had started from the inside. There was a marked smell of kerosene round the case where the lamp was picked up. There was no place where a lamp might have been hung up in the part of the godown.

At this stage Mr. Murray asked His Worship's permission to make a statement, as he was placed in a position he did not like. He said: Prior to the fire I was never spoken to concerning insurance on goods supposed to be in the godown at West Point. I never made any list of goods supposed to be there prior to the fire, and did not know any insurance had been effected on the goods until after the fire.

Lo Wing Kee, who is in charge for larceny of goods from the godown, before giving evidence, was administered the usual caution. He said: I was employed as shroff to the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, and later as godown-keeper in the Des Voeux Road Godown. I was at a feast at the Yun Fung Loi restaurant until 12.30 on the morning of the 9th inst. From there I went to the godown, where I slept that night. I have slept there on three occasions before. I had been using a lamp in the godown prior to going out. It was standing on the top of a box at the back of the godown. On returning at 12.30 it was still alight, and it was alight when I went to sleep. I was awakened by a knocking above the godown, and found the godown was on fire. The godown book

produced is mine. All goods taken into the godown I entered in it.

Inspector Collett gave evidence as to the things found in the godown. He estimated the damage done to goods at not more than \$500.

Mr. Hursthouse addressed His Worship with regard to the suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire. He said it was impossible for His Worship to believe that the lamp had fallen in the suspicious position in which it was found. Further, there was the fact that Lo Wing Kee was the only person sleeping on the premises at the time.

His Worship said that no charge had been brought against anyone of any form of arson. As was usual in the case of a fire enquiry, the result was extremely inconclusive, and at the same time extremely curious and very suspicious. He saw no ground for taking action under Section six of the Ordinance which empowered him, if the fire were considered the result of a crime, to commit any person or persons connected therewith to prison to answer any charge which might be brought against them. If the solicitor representing the Insurance Companies and the Police had made any other charge, he should have taken it into consideration. It was still open for him to do so. He would proceed under Section five and inquire whether there was any reason why the premises should not be released.

On the application of Mr. Hursthouse the inquiry was adjourned until to-day, to enable him to find out whether his clients wished to take any further action in the matter.

The hearing of this inquiry was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley's office) representing the Police and four Insurance Companies, and Mr. Dixon (of Mr. Hastings' office) appearing on behalf of Ho Li Cho, owner of the goods in the godown.

On the application of Mr. Hursthouse, the release of the premises was deferred for a week.

The charge against Lo Wing Kee, godown-keeper, of the larceny of certain goods from the godown, was withdrawn by the Police.

THE WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINING CO., LD.

The crisis in the affairs of the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Company is tided over as the result of an informal meeting of shareholders held Dec. 15th. It was a largely attended meeting and on the whole a cheerful one. The general feeling, as indicated by the applause following a remark, was that the International Banking Corporation had been rather hasty in driving the company in an awkward corner, but the situation was one to be saved, and the only question was how it should be done. The directors came in for some criticism. At the very outset of the meeting a shareholder expressed the opinion that the circular concerning the meeting might have been worded in less alarming terms, and thus the sending of the share quotations down practically to zero avoided. Another point raised was that the Board had not taken the opportunity a few weeks since, when the shares were at a premium, to issue the balance of ordinary shares. To this the chairman (Mr. Marcus Wolff) could only reply that an error of judgment had been committed.

The Chairman in an introductory statement explained how the crisis had arisen, through the Bank refusing to allow the overdraft to be increased beyond the present amount of \$38,737.68, or to continue it unless satisfactory security, personal or otherwise, were deposited against it. They had, however, agreed to accept as part payment the \$10 call on the 3,777 preference shares recently called up, releasing their lien on the property. But in the meantime the company was without money to meet immediate liabilities, and unless the meeting adopted some extraordinary measures, it was impossible to carry on.

Mr. J. R. Duff, the expert adviser of the company, had written a letter based on his examination after the first crushings, and this was read. It explained that many circumstances made it impossible to judge the probable out-

turn of gold by the results of the first crushing, and expressed the confident opinion that the mine would be paying expenses and showing a profit within three months. His lowest estimate of the average outturn to be expected after that time was 5 dwts. per ton, and expenses should be covered by 2 dwts. leaving a profit of 3 dwts. Taking 80 tons a day with only 20 stamps and 300 days in the year this represented a possible profit of \$72,000 gold.

Mr. F. E. Taylor, as a shareholder with considerable interests, who had looked into the situation carefully, made a decidedly optimistic speech.

There was an animated discussion as to how the money required should be obtained, many shareholders wishing to have a uniform call made in order to give all an equal benefit and interest. This, however, the Chairman explained, was impossible as time was too limited. Debentures redeemable six months at twelve per cent. per annum were subscribed in the room with great eagerness, and the amount required to save the situation was rapidly more than subscribed.—*N.C. Daily News.*

THE PERAK SUGAR CULTIVATION CO., LD.

The report for the nineteenth annual general meeting, to be held at Shanghai on Monday, 19th December, is as follows:

The Directors submit the following report for the twelve months ending 30th September, 1904:—

CROP.—Gular Estate.—The area under cane as stated in last year's report was 1,627.25 orlongs; of this, canes have been cropped from 1,542.75 orlongs, leaving 84.50 orlongs to be carried over to next crop. The output of Sugar was piculs 56,072.93, giving an average of piculs 36.6 per orlong (1.6 tons per acre); the proportion of No. 1 sugar was 94.8 per cent, and the whole output realised an average net price of \$6.48 per picul.

Klompong Estate.—The area cropped has been 829.75 orlongs, producing piculs 33,468.30 of Basket Sugar, an average of piculs 40.33 per orlong. The average price realised for this sugar was \$3.33 net per picul.

LABOUR.—For the greater part of the season the supply of labour has been quite inadequate to the requirements of the estates, with the result that the cultivation has suffered from the want of sufficient attention, and it has been found impossible to extend the area under cane at Klompong to correspond with the capacity of the plant, which is capable of dealing with about 1,200 orlongs as against 877½ already planted for next season. The difficulty is one which has been experienced in a more or less degree by all the sugar estates, and is due chiefly to the extensive Government works in progress, and to the failure on the part of the Government to import sufficient coolies for these works, the Government contractors avoiding the initial expense by offering higher wages to time-expired coolies on the various estates. The Company has imported during the season 755 new coolies at a cost of \$33,000; 635 of these arrived on the estate during the last four months, of the season under two and three years' contracts, and a proportion of the cost of importation has therefore been carried forward as a charge on next year's account. The latest reports state that the supply of labour is now ample.

RUBBER PLANTATION.—The reports with regard to this continue to be satisfactory. The manager expects to be able to start tapping—about 1,000 trees—next year. About 20,000 trees have been planted out and are doing well. About 15,000 will be ready for tapping in the year 1907.

CROP 1904-1905.—Gula Estate.—The area under cane for this crop is 1,393.75 orlongs, of which 622.50 orlongs are under lease to Cane Contractors. The whole output has been sold under forward contracts at prices which may be expected to realise an average of \$6.45 net per picul.

Klompong Estate.—The area under cane for this crop is 877.50 orlongs, of which 595.00 orlongs are leased to Cane Contractors. The whole output of Basket Sugar has been sold at \$4 per picul.

It is anticipated that the net results of the new season's working will be more favourable than those of the season under review.

ACCOUNTS.—Working Account for the season shows a profit of Tls. 33,462.29, which is transferred to Profit and Loss Account; the latter account, after deducting interest on debentures and the Manager's Commission of 2½ per cent. on the Working Account profit, shows an available balance of Tls. 26,219.18, which the Directors propose to divide as follows:—

A Dividend to Shareholders of 5 per cent. (Tls. 2.50 per share) ...	Tls. 17,500.00
To write off Depreciation from Plant and Building—Klompung Estate ...	5,308.91
To write off Depreciation from Buildings—Gula Estate ...	1,775.18
Carrying forward ..	1,635.09
	Tls. 26,219.18

DIRECTORS.—Sir Charles Dudgeon resigned his seat on leaving Shanghai, the vacancy being filled by the appointment of Mr. F. Anderson, who retires at the annual meeting, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. Chas. H. King, acting on behalf of Mr. G. R. Wingrove owing to the latter's illness.

Mr. G. R. Wingrove offers himself for re-election.

Shanghai, 6th December, 1904.

WILLIAM D. LITTLE,

Chairman.

LEONARD KERR,

Secretary.

THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON MANUFACTURING CO., LD.

The report to be presented at the ninth annual meeting of shareholders at Shanghai on 21st December, was as follows:

Your directors have now to place before you the accounts of the company for the year ending the 30th September, 1904, which have been duly audited and show a net profit of Tls. 14,228.71. The War in the North combined with tightness of money and high cost of cotton have greatly interfered with the profitable working of the Mill.

Debenture (Trust Fund).—This fund (including accrued interest) now stands at Tls. 31,669.87, to which has to be added 25 per cent. of the year's profit, viz: Tls. 3,557.18, making in all Tls. 35,227.54, say 26 per cent. of the amount of Debentures issued.

Your Directors propose that the sum of Tls. 31,669.87, now standing at the credit of Debenture Sinking Fund, be transferred to profit and loss, making it Tls. 183,933.34, and that this be disposed of as follows—

Writes off property account for depreciation ..	Tls. 17,323.20
Writes off plant account for depreciation ..	52,543.24
Writes off furniture account for depreciation ..	437.61
Place to a reserve fund ..	50,000.00
Carrying forward to new account ..	13,629.29
	Tls. 133,933.34

Directors.—Mr. Scott retires by rotation but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditors.—Your Directors regret to have to record the death of Mr. R. F. Eastlack, who has been an auditor of the Company since its formation.

Mr. A. R. Leake audited the accounts now presented, and offers himself for election.

J. L. SCOTT, Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

As on 30th September, 1904.

Dr.	Tls.	Tls.
To interest account ..	42,674.14	
Less—Rent on Chinese houses ..	4,612.31	
		38,061.83
To directors' fees ..	4,500.00	
To auditor's fees ..	750.00	
To balance, brought forward ..		
30th September, 1903 ..	88,034.76	
Profit, 30th September, 1904 ..	14,228.71	
		102,263.47
		Tals 145,575.30

Cr.	Tls.	Tls.
By balance, brought forward ..		
30th September, 1903 ..	91,574.54	
Less—Amount transferred to sinking fund ..	6,539.78	
		88,034.76
By transfer fees ..	16.44	
By working account ..	57,524.10	
		Tals 145,575.30

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

Dr.	Tls.	Tls.
To capital account ..	623,800.00	
To Russo-Chinese Bank overdraft current account ..	258,189.89	
To debenture account ..	134,000.00	
To acceptances and bills due ..	1,729.21	
Less—Stocks held against same ..	1,729.21	
		64,418.03
To sundry credits ..	31,669.87	
To debenture sinking fund ..	80,000.00	
To loan account ..	102,263.47	
To profit and loss account ..		Tals 1,299,341.26

Cr.	Tls.	Tls.
By cargo boat ..	2,114.40	
By property account 30th Sept. 1903 ..	329,715.08	
Additions during year ..	8,008.12	
		337,323.20
By plant and machinery 30th September, 1903 ..	678,921.84	
Additions during year ..	3,621.40	
		682,543.24
By spinning mill plant ..	15,000.00	
By furniture account ..	5,172.14	
Additions during year ..	265.47	
		5,437.61
By sundry debtors ..	19,433.33	
By unexpired fire premia ..	4,834.66	
By stocks on hand—		
Cotton ..	109,068.31	
Yarn ..	178,860.14	
	22,042.00	
		56,818.14
Cotton by products (waste and seeds) ..	11,826.62	
Sundry mill stores ..	24,335.69	
Coal ..	829.19	
		242,877.95
By debenture trust fund 30th September, 1903 ..	23,539.04	
Paid trustees 25 per cent. profit, 1903 ..	6,539.78	
Accrued interest thereon ..	1,571.03	
		31,669.87
		Tals 1,299,341.26

* Less—Yarn paid for not delivered.

HONGKONG HIGH LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LD.

The twentieth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of this Company was held at the Company's registered office, Alexandra Buildings, on the 13th inst. There were present Messrs. Henry Humphreys (Chairman), J. A. Jupp, J. Orange, A. Moir, J. A. Tarrant, J. M. Wong, G. Murray Bain, W. H. Gaskell, C. Ewens and the Hon. W. J. Gresson.

REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

In moving the adoption of these the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—I propose, with your permission, to follow the usual course and take the report and statement of accounts as read. The traffic receipts for the twelve months ending 30th November, 1904, show an improvement of \$5,657.13 and the net profits for the same period an increase of \$4,924.25 as compared with the preceding year, a result which cannot but be gratifying to shareholders. The possibility, however, of a new Tramway being constructed to the Peak in the near future in direct competition with our own line compels us to husband our resources to the utmost. Your general managers and consulting Committee have therefore considered it expedient notwithstanding the increased profits to reduce the dividend from \$20 to \$15 a share and to place the unusually large sum of \$ 0,000 to reserve fund. If this policy be pursued for another two years (about the earliest period in which any opposition line could be opened for traffic) this Company will have a reserve fund of about \$100,000, and with its small capital, and a reserve almost equal to its capital, will be in a very sound position, and strong enough to meet almost any contingency that may arise. It is to be hoped, however, that the Government will insist on the new Tramway having its Peak terminus at some spot other than in the immediate vicinity of our own station at Victoria

Gap. Another terminus there would confer no lasting benefit upon Peak residents, who could at most only hope for a temporary reduction of rates arising out of the competition between the two companies. The shareholders of both would suffer, and the Government and the Colony generally would not benefit at all. We are at present negotiating with the authorities for permission to extend our line to Queen's Road. If successful in obtaining their assent we shall be not only in a stronger position to meet the threatened opposition, but we shall be better able to cater for the wants of our season ticket holders and the public generally. At the same time, we are of opinion that the extension of the line to Queen's Road will prove remunerative, as there will be every likelihood of our receiving much greater support in the way of casual traffic. I have no further remarks to make, but if any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN, in seconding the motion, said:—I think the Chairman has covered all the ground, and mentioned pretty well all the points in the minds of shareholders at present. Perhaps the least said about these points in the meantime the better, and we shall find later on "how the cat jumps." The motion was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The CHAIRMAN moved that the Hon. W. J. Gresson, and Messrs. J. Orange and Scott Harston be re-elected members of consulting committee for the ensuing year. Mr. J. A. TARRANT seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. J. ORANGE moved, and Mr. J. A. JUPP seconded, that Messrs. G. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell be re-elected auditors. The motion was agreed to.

This concluded the business.

HONGKONG NAVY LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of members and associates of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League was held in the old Chamber of Commerce room at the City Hall on Dec. 19. There were present Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (President), the Hon. Gershom Stewart, Col. Western, and Messrs. G. Piercy, C. Mooney, C. B. Hayward, E. W. Mitchell, R. C. Wilcox, D. Layton, T. P. Cochrane, Lo Cheung Ip, D. R. Law, W. E. Claret, N. Mumford, W. H. T. Davies, S. A. Joseph, M. J. Stabb, A. Labington, P. C. Potts and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

In moving the adoption of the report the PRESIDENT said:—The report and statement have been in your hands for some time past. As you will have seen from that report, it is nearly two years since I last had the pleasure of addressing you. As you will ascertain from the report, there has been a considerable change in the officers of the League during the past year and eleven months. I am sorry there are not more members and associates present here this afternoon, but perhaps—I hope it is so—that may be taken as a sign that the members and associates are satisfied with the manner in which the business of the League has been conducted since we last held a general meeting. My experience in Hongkong is, that a full and crowded meeting is a sure sign that some disturbance is going to occur, or that some points are to be brought forward. I should like to say a few words on matters of importance in connection with the branch. As stated in paragraph three of the report, the shooting continues to be on a high level in the China fleet, and I understand the Ocean in particular has made very good firing. [The speaker here read an extract from the *Naval and Military Record* of the 10th November last, wherein was given an account of the firing, under most difficult conditions, and as similar to the nature of firing in case of actual warfare as practice would allow, of H.M. ships *Glory*, *Albion*, *Ocean*, *Vengeance* and *Centurion*.] On the whole, the report speaks of the very great progress made, and I think it is a most satisfactory account of the practice which was held on the 21st September last by the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Noel. Our report deals also with the visit to the Far East of the Navy League Envoy, Mr. H. F. Wyatt. In his lecture at the City Hall,

our late Governor, Sir Henry Blake, took the chair. I refer to that fact in particular, because an erroneous impression has got about in this Colony that the Navy League are in some way opposed to the Governor and the Government of the Colony, and it is not right for an officer of the Civil Service to belong to it. Sir Henry Blake's presence at Mr. Wyatt's lecture ought to have disposed of that idea. I hope that in future we shall have more support from the large Civil Service of this Colony, also from the Naval and Military services. The Navy League, so far from being opposed to the Government, has as its primary object the support of the Government on every possible occasion, because, we feel with the late Lord Salisbury, that the defence of the nation is the business of the people. Nobody could accuse Lord Salisbury of being an enthusiastic radical, or of in any way desiring to curry favour with the popular vote. On the 9th May 1900 he said that national defence was the business of the people and not of the Government, and if we consider the British Constitution we must say that the words of Lord Salisbury are very well founded indeed. It is quite obvious that taxation is essential for defence, and this comes out of the people. If their support cannot be secured for expensive measures in preparation for the possibility of war, it is quite obvious that the Naval and Military services must go down and with them the prestige and credit of the British Empire must suffer. As I said before, it is for us to strive by every possible means to educate the general body of people, and induce them to give their support. And if Lord Salisbury expressed this opinion in 1900, how much more danger is there now since seeing the large sums expended in the South African War. Those who have studied the course of events at home, must have noticed that party amongst whom is Winston Churchill, whose watchword will be that of economy; and no doubt that party will complain that we are spending too much on Naval and Military preparations. The Navy League's object is to show that that party is mistaken, and to demonstrate that what we pay for preparations is only the insurance we pay for protection of our interests, and the dividend we get out of the money is to be found in the security we get, without which the British Empire would very soon begin to go down (applause). I would ask you to bear in mind that not only would unpreparedness for war, suddenly coming upon us, cause very great damage to our prestige and material prosperity, but, if unfortunately the danger of war should ultimately arrive, it is a well known fact that preparations which have to be made hurriedly at the last moment are the most expensive comparatively, and extremely uneconomical (applause). Gentlemen, I would therefore urge that it is incumbent upon us in this Colony to join the Navy League in large numbers, and I think that it is unsatisfactory that out of some 1,200 or more British and other members of this community exclusive of the service, we should only be able to have 235 members and 35 associates. I think it is very necessary that we should in this far Eastern Colony, dependent as we are upon everything; upon our prosperity for security of our maritime community, that we should join in great numbers the Hongkong branch of the Navy League. I feel sure we shall find a great number joining here and giving their support to the League. We should remember that the support which is recorded by British residents in this Colony to this branch of the League serves to encourage the executive of the head office of the Navy League in London, and shows that Hongkong are heart and soul with them to put the defences of the empire on a sound and safe footing. As is well known to you, the subscription to this branch of the League is a very trifling one. There is no entrance fee; the subscription is only \$5 a year for members, and for associates \$2. Therefore nobody can say they cannot afford to join this branch. [Showing that the head office of the League appreciated the work done by the local branch, the speaker read a short extract from head office which congratulated the committee of the local branch on having assisted them in the past in the

manner they had done. It not only thanked the branch for its valuable assistance, but for the example it has set for years past which has had great effect in stimulating the energies of the people in Shanghai.] In connection with the Shanghai Branch, I was speaking to a member of the committee only a few weeks ago, and I can tell you that that branch is showing very great activity indeed, and I hope the Hongkong branch will not allow themselves to be left behind (Applause). We have had sent out recently from home 100 copies of the British Navy past and present, and 300 Navy League maps. The committee propose to distribute the 100 copies amongst the Schools of the Colony, because it is considered that the education of youth with regard to the Navy is of great importance. The manuals they propose to distribute amongst members, and associates. The authorities here have decided to put seven or eight of the sloops and gunboats into reserve, and I believe the object of doing that is to obtain crews for torpedo-boat destroyers coming out here. That will no doubt be an important addition to the fighting fleet, and as such has the hearty approval of your committee. At the same time the committee have thought it right to inform the head office of the very useful work which has been performed by gunboats out here in the Far East in time past. There can be no doubt that these gunboats have on various occasions, when disturbances have arisen, been of very great assistance in affording protection to foreign residents in China, and in keeping up the prestige of the British name in places where otherwise Great Britain might not have made any showing at all (applause).

Mr. DAVIES, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, on behalf of absent members thanked the President and committee for the work done by them in connection with the League. The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. MUMFORD moved that the retiring members of committee be re-elected with the exception of Messrs. Wilcox and Law who wished to resign as they were leaving the Colony, the former permanently and the latter temporarily, also that Mr. Cruickshank, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, be elected a member. Mr. JOSEPH seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

THE MURDER ON SHANGHAI BUND.

Mr. d'Oettenger, the Russian Vice Consul at Shanghai, took some further evidence on December 17th in the Bund murder case.

A foreign witness stated that at about 4.15 a.m. he heard a loud blowing of police whistles, and saw a large number of people running towards the Nanking Road jetty. Witness also went to the jetty and on the footpath behind Sir Harry Parkes' statue he saw a Chinaman lying on the ground with a large wound in the head, from which was pouring a large quantity of blood, and close by the body was lying an adze. The Chinaman seemed to be unconscious near the end of the jetty were two Russian sailors; one of them, the short man, was standing close to a Sikh policeman, but witness could not see whether they were struggling or not. The police took the two sailors in custody. Shortly afterwards an ambulance came up and the wounded man was placed on it and taken away.

Another witness who was called stated that he was walking along the grass plot on the Bund foreshore towards the Astor House, when he heard the sound of whistles; on looking in the direction from which the sounds proceeded he saw a tall sailor with an axe in his hand. Witness next saw the tall sailor drop the axe and run towards the end of the jetty with the sailor following close behind; a native constable rushed towards the men blowing his whistle; some Sikh constables came on the scene and the tall sailor began to struggle with them. The smaller man began to gesticulate wildly and pointing to himself began speaking in the Russian language. A lady whom witness did not

know, who was walking along the grass plot with a small boy, sent the boy in a ricksha for Dr. Cox, who shortly afterwards arrived and had the wounded man, who had a large gash on the head, removed to the hospital. As the wounded man was being taken away Dr. Cox remarked to a bystander that he did not think the man would live to reach the hospital. About the same time the sailors were taken to the Police Station.

It was understood that the men would be tried by Court Martial on board the cruiser *Askold*.

JAPAN AS CHINA'S PROTECTOR.

A pro-Russian paper in the North publishes the following:—These islanders are indeed a wonderful people, and understand thoroughly how to work themselves in. They make friends with the Chinese and remind them of their kinship. Promises are made without much hesitation, to the effect that they will restore China in Manchuria and Liaotung, when Russia has been driven back; the exact terms to be settled later on.

China, proud of such glorious, victorious, and generous relatives, feels bound to reciprocate. She engages them to teach her army, and buys arms of all descriptions, to be paid for by instalments. Japan tells her: "we can do all for you; do not let the aliens build your railway; cancel, as far as possible, your railway contracts, they are dangerous; we will supply you with all necessary materials, and you need not pay at once; simply leave the control to us, and we will pay ourselves back out of the large revenue which we will create; and, when all that you owe is paid, we will hand the whole thing over to you in splendid condition. What we do in one sphere we will do in all; and you shall no longer be in the hands of the greedy aliens; but under the care of your kinsmen. We understand that your treasury is empty, because you have to pay the heavy indemnity to the foreigners, but we want to assist you and help you to get rid of them. We will build all your steamers on the same terms; and, in order to see that all works well, we will take charge of your fiscal system. So don't listen to any foreign proposals, they only want power and profit." There are, however, many instances in life where relatives have shown themselves more dangerous than strangers. China ought to understand that, if she does not take care, she will be entirely under a so-called "Japanese protectorate," like Korea; and a far stronger rule than that of the present Ching Dynasty. It is to be hoped, however, that some of the more intelligent Viceroy and other high officials are beginning to see through the dangerous but alluring advice of their brown cousins; and will still have faith in the counsels of Sir Robert Hart, and those nations, like Great Britain and America, that have shown their ability and willingness to act in the best future interests of a united and strong China.

FATALITY AT THE DOCKS.

An inquiry was held at the Magistracy on the 19th instant before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz touching the death of Charles Frederick Richardson, an able seaman on board H.M.S. *Robin*, who was found dead in the Kowloon Docks on the 12th instant. Lieut. Commander Baughan, of the *Robin*, also sat on the Bench. Messrs. J. A. Woodgass, John Heywood and I. S. Perry were empanelled as a jury. The first witness called was Dr. Macfarlane, officer in charge of the Mortuary at Kowloon, who made a post-mortem examination of the body. There was a small scalp wound at the back of the head which might have been caused by a fall or a blow. He found death was due to a stricture caused by drowning. The head timekeeper of the dock gave evidence as to the finding of the body in the dock in about four or five feet of water. The depositions of several seamen off the *Robin* went to prove the identification of the deceased, also that he was a member of a party of blue-jackets who went to render assistance on the occasion of the fire on the s.s. *Indravelli*. The dock in which he was found, he would have to

pass on his return from the *Indravelli*. He did not appear to be under the influence of liquor, although he was slightly shaky on his legs. He was in his usual health and spirits. In summing up, the Coroner informed the jury that deceased had been fighting the fire on board the *Indravelli*. When this was suppressed he had presumably had a drink on board, possibly more than one. On his return to his ship, he had to pass through not very well lighted docks, and evidently fell into the dock in which he was found. The jury after short deliberation, returned a verdict of "Found drowned."

VOLUNTEER PRESENTATION.

FAREWELL TO SERGT. BARTOLOME (DRILL INSTRUCTOR).

The officers, [non-commissioned officers and men of the left half of No. 2 Co, H.K.V.A., on the 19th inst. bade farewell to Sergt. Bartolome, R.G.A., their drill instructor who leaves for home this morning.

Capt. SKINNER, H.K.V.A., in presenting Sergt. Bartolome with a solid silver tea service on behalf of the half company, said that they had invited him to meet them in order to wish Mrs. Bartolome and himself a pleasant voyage and other good wishes. During the year he had been associated with the left half of No. 2 Co. he had made himself popular with both officers and men, owing to the efficient manner and patience he had shown in conducting his duties. He had furthermore endeared himself to them all by his sterling qualities as a man, and they were grateful to him because he had always taken such an interest in instructing them individually, old hands and recruits. They deeply regretted losing him. The token might perchance bring back to him memory of the days he spent in Hongkong (Applause).

Major PRITCHARD in a short speech commented on the excellent progress the left half of No. 2 Co. had made under the efficient instruction of Sergt. Bartolome (Applause).

Sergt. BARTOLOME, abashed by so much praise, in a manly speech replied that he had done no more than his duty. He was very pleased, certainly, with the progress the left half of No. 2 Co. had made. The men had been very attentive at their drills.

VOLUNTEER SHAM FIGHT.

As arranged, a land attack between the Hongkong Volunteers and the Volunteer troops took place on the 17th inst. The Volunteers were under the command of Major Chapman, who was assisted by Captains Macdonald and Ordish, and Lieuts. Lammert, Northcote, Macdonald and Scott, while the troopers were commanded by Major Pritchard and Lieutenant Gresson. The arrangement for the manoeuvre was that the troopers should be in possession of the Northern hills from Aberdeen. The Volunteers were to effect a landing and try to capture their position. At three o'clock the dismounted men left Murray Pier by launch. On arrival at Telegraph Bay orders were given the warriors to lie down in the launch so as not to be perceived by the enemy. The launch was directed to Waterfall Bay, where the attackers landed and divided into two parties, one detachment of 14 men under the command of Major Chapman, and officered by Captain Ordish and Lieut. Macdonald and Lammert. This detachment landed at the Eastern end of the bay. The second detachment of 12 men was commanded by Captain Macdonald and officered by Lieuts. Northcote and Scott. They effected a landing on the North side of the bay. The attackers, in ambush, got well into the enemy's country without detection. Major Chapman then divided his men into two divisions, he and Lieutenant Macdonald taking charge of the first, while Captain Ordish and Lieut. Lammert commanded the second. Major Chapman and his men trekked to the North of Pokfulum Road, and Captain Ordish marched his men to the East. On reaching Jubilee Road, two of the enemy were sighted on horseback. They were quickly surrounded and taken prisoners. After climbing for two hours the divisions met near the Chinese Cemetery. Here two of the

enemy were noticed coming along at a gallop. The attackers, in ambush, greeted them with a volley and took them prisoners. A further two of the enemy, approaching from Aberdeen, fell into an ambush carefully prepared by Captain Macdonald, and surrendered. At about 5.30 p.m. the contesting armies withdrew from the field of battle, and marching to Pokfulum Road, were there met by H.E. the Governor, accompanied by his A.D.C. His Excellency expressed himself as well pleased with the way in which the attack had been planned and carried out, after which he headed the troops in their homeward march.

INTERESTING SHIPPING CASE AT SHANGHAI.

The following report of a case heard at Shanghai on the 14th inst. appears in the *N.-C. Daily News*:—Alfred Longstaff and William Tait, mate and chief engineer respectively of the s.s. *Nigretia*, were summoned for refusing to obey the lawful commands of the master, Samuel Harrison, at Shanghai on the 14th December.

Samuel Harrison, master of the str. *Nigretia*, said that Alfred Longstaff was on his articles as mate and William Tait as chief engineer. (Articles produced.) The defendants had refused to accompany the vessel to Vladivostok. Otherwise they had done their duty properly and as usual. The second mate, second and third engineers, cook and steward, boatswain and carpenter, and one ordinary seaman had also refused to proceed. They were the only Europeans in the ship. The other men had agreed to abide by the decision in the case of the men summoned. The articles were signed on the 16th December 1903. The shipowners were Messrs. Allan & Co. of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The ship was now chartered by Messrs. Moller Bros. as agents for Mr. Serebrenik. The charter was for two months with the option of a third. The cargo to be carried to Vladivostok was kerosene oil in cases and absolutely nothing else as far as complainant knew. The ship was loaded, and he believed that there was nothing in the ship except the oil. The ship was not carrying any mails or passengers. The ship was not in any way engaged in the service of either of the two belligerents. Complainant had never heard of any notification of a blockade of Vladivostok and had received no notice of any.

Cross-examined—Complainant first heard that war had broken out while he was at Singapore or Colombo; he could not remember which. It was about the 2nd of March. The ship called at Singapore for orders. Complainant first informed the defendants that the ship was proceeding to Vladivostok on arrival at Shanghai on the 8th inst. They then declined to go, as they considered there was an extra risk which they refused to take. Complainant inferred that the existence of mechanical mines in the neighbourhood of the harbour was the cause of the objection. No other reason was given, but they mentioned the possibility of capture by the Japanese, though that did not weigh with them so much as the mines. It was also mentioned that Vladivostok might be bombarded; in fact all the circumstances that probably could be enumerated were enumerated. Complainant had followed the sea for forty-one years. He could not express an opinion as to whether the articles contained an obligation to proceed to Vladivostok under the circumstances.

His Worship pointed out that complainant could not relieve him (the magistrate) of his duties.

Complainant thought it probable he could supply the places of these men in Shanghai. He desired to protect himself by these proceedings and he wanted to get to Vladivostok. He had no other complaint against these men.

Mr. Browett, for defendants, stated that the only question raised was whether under the circumstances the master's order was a lawful one, or to be necessarily obeyed in accordance with the articles.

Defendant Alfred Longstaff, first officer of the *Nigretia*, said he had signed on the ship's articles. He first heard of the outbreak of war on arriving at Colombo. Last Thursday complainant told defendant that the ship was going

to Vladivostok and he (defendant) replied that he declined to go. His reason given was that the place was laid over with uncharted mines. He also said that a Japanese squadron might bombard the place at any time while they were inside; also he referred to the danger of capture by the Japanese. Defendant considered it against his personal safety to agree to go there. None of these risks were contemplated by him when he signed on the articles.

By the Court—The articles were for three years or until the return of the ship to the United Kingdom. He had not considered, before signing the articles, the extreme likelihood of a naval war breaking out before they expired. The cargo was supposed to be petroleum oil, but he would not like to say what the cases might contain. He had seen kerosene oil running out of some of them. The Japanese Consul here had told defendant that oil might be conditional or unconditional contraband and that a vessel conveying it, if seized, would probably be taken to Sasebo for decision by the military authorities. It did not matter what might appear on the bills of lading.

His Worship—Which do you consider the more perilous occupation; going crawling into Vladivostok among a lot of mines or voyaging in the North Sea with the Baltic Fleet about?

Defendant—I don't know, Sir: about the same risk. (Laughter).

Defendant, William Tait, without being sworn, said he took up exactly the same position as Mr. Longstaff.

In reply to his Worship, Mr. Browett said he had no knowledge of a blockade of Vladivostok, nor did he raise that point. In regard to whether kerosene might be deemed contraband or otherwise, he presumed a distinction would be drawn between oil for the use of the inhabitants of the country and oil for the use of troops. That rested for proof with the ultimate consignees of the cargo.

His Worship—Who are the consignees?

Complainant was not able to say.

Mr. Longstaff said a Mr. Hermann was the consignee at Vladivostok and a Mr. Gifferski, or some such name, at Harbin.

Mr. Browett observed that both places were, in common knowledge, almost entirely occupied by troops.

His Worship pointed out that kerosene oil was not mentioned in the list of articles under conditional contraband in the Japanese proclamation.

Mr. Browett remarked that oil would be very useful for lighting purposes at Vladivostok particularly at this time of year.

Defendant Longstaff, recalled, said he was a married man with two children.

Defendant Tait, sworn, said he was a married man, but without children.

Complainant, replying to his Worship, said he could not give the latitude of Vladivostok without reference to the chart, but it was certainly within the articles.

Mr. Browett submitted that defendants were perfectly justified in refusing to proceed to Vladivostok under the circumstances. It was a matter of common knowledge that the Russians were not particular as to where they laid their mines, or where they left them, or where they allowed them to wander. Therefore it was not only a question of being piloted through a channel between mines, but a steamer going to Vladivostok ran very considerable risks, as it might at any time come in contact with a mine whose location was unknown to the pilots. Again supposing the ship got inside there, might come a bombardment or a blockade at any time. Mr. Browett referred his Worship to the decision of Lord Kenyon in the case of *Limland v. Stephens*, reported in 3 Espinasse, p. 269, as supporting his contention that the summonses should be dismissed.

His Worship proposed to give a decision in writing next morning at 10 a.m.

Complainant—Then I shall be unable to get away for another day.

His Worship—Why?

Complainant—To come here first and pay off these men and take on a fresh crew will make it too late.

His Worship—It is not yet settled you will have to pay them off.

Complainant—But in case I do.

Judgment was as follows:—

This is a summons taken out against Alfred Longstaff, chief officer of the s. s. *Nigretia*, and against William Taft, chief engineer of the same ship, charging them for that they have been guilty of wilful disobedience to the lawful commands of the master, Samuel Harrison, contrary to Sec. 225, sub-sect. (b.) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

The defence raised is that the command consists of an order to proceed to sea with a cargo of kerosene oil for Vladivostok, a port at present in the occupation of the Russians, now at war with Japan; that in going to that port the crew will incur dangers other than those which they are required to incur under their articles of agreement and the conditions of their service, and that consequently the command of the Captain is not a lawful command within the meaning of the said section.

The dangers which the defendants allege they will incur are: (1) damage from mines protecting Vladivostok, (2) damage from the possibility of the place being bombarded after they get there, (3) risk that the ship may be taken into Saseho by the Japanese for investigation as to the nature and destination of her cargo.

Now there is no question but that Vladivostok is within the degrees of latitude within which these men have contracted under their articles to serve, and it is not contended for the defence that Vladivostok is blockaded or that the ship is engaged in any "unneutral service," on behalf of either belligerent. With regard to the question as to whether or no this ship is carrying contraband of war it has only been contended that the cargo is of such a nature that there is a risk that the Japanese may require to take the ship into Saseho for investigation. In this connection it may be well to mention that Saseho is within the latitudes within which these men have agreed to serve.

From the list of articles declared to be contraband by the Japanese Government it does not appear that kerosene is contraband, and there is nothing before me to lead me to suppose that this ship runs any special risk of capture beyond the risk run by any ship sailing for a belligerent destination. I may point out that in time of war every neutral ship on the high sea has to submit to the exercise of the right of search, and experience has shown that this right is not always exercised without risk to the neutral ship.

I am of opinion that under the circumstances before me, the command of the master is a lawful command. It is obvious that the outbreak of any big naval war is likely to cause additional perils to peaceful merchant shipping, and these perils have been increased by the range of modern weapons and the employment of mines, etc., but I know of no authority for any general proposition that the outbreak of war alone, and the perils consequent thereon, modifies the agreements of crews of such peaceful merchantmen. There is authority for the proposition that a man is not excused from carrying out his contract by reason of the fact that difficulties and dangers have arisen before the contract is completed which were not foreseen or contemplated at the time of the making thereof.

In proceeding to Vladivostok the Captain is *prima facie* doing nothing which a peaceful trader is not entitled to do unmolested by either belligerent, and I cannot excuse the men from the obligations required of them by their articles on the ground of the perils which they have alleged may possibly exist in such performance.

Under the circumstances I shall only impose a fine of one day's pay on each of the defendants, but should they continue to refuse duty the Captain will be entitled to bring them again before me under sub-sect. (c) of the same section of the Act when they will run the risk of undergoing a term of imprisonment.

J. C. E. DOUGLAS,
Police Magistrate.

The decision given by Mr. Douglas in H. B. M.'s Police Court on the 14th inst. is of wide interest to the shipping community at the present time. The point at issue was extremely simple. On arriving in Shanghai last week Captain Harrison of the str. *Nigretia* informed his ship's company that the destination of the vessel with its cargo of cases of kerosene oil was to be Vladivostok. Thereupon the entire

white crew, including the deck and engine-room officers, declared that they would proceed no further. They had signed on the articles on the 16th December, 1903, nearly two months before the outbreak of the war, and they had not contemplated the risk of entering the port of a belligerent power. They conceded that there was no actual blockade of Vladivostok yet proclaimed, but protested that the entrance to the harbour was so dangerous from floating and uncharted mines that they were justified in refusing to risk their lives in attempting to enter it. Other objections were raised but only incidentally, and it was not seriously contended that the *Nigretia* was carrying cargo other than that which appeared in her papers, or that this constituted contraband.

It was in this latter particular that the Shanghai case differed materially from that decided by Capt. L. Barnes-Lawrence (Marine Magistrate at Hongkong) just a month ago. Captain Lawrence excused the crew of the steamer *Salfordia* from obeying the order of her master to proceed to Vladivostok, but one of the reasons he gave for his decision was that "the crew were not informed when they signed the articles that the vessel was carrying contraband." He mentioned also that "should Vladivostok be again bombarded, and this vessel be within its harbour at the time, danger to life may reasonably be apprehended," but although a similar contention was put forward on behalf of the defendants at Shanghai it failed to carry weight with Mr. Douglas.

Sympathy will undoubtedly go out to the men who have been ordered to take exceptional risks for which they did not bargain. They are brave men probably, as sailors indeed must be, but they have wives and families to think of too. From their attitude in Court we gathered that several will prefer imprisonment to proceeding on so dangerous a voyage. Though the decision may be strictly defended in law, it is distinctly against the equity of the case, for it has been unhappily proved by experience that the perils from mines in the neighbourhood of Vladivostok have not been exaggerated.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

BOWLING.

HONGKONG CLUB v. CLUB GERMANIA.

The Bowling Competition between the Hongkong Club and Club Germania for the new Challenge Cup concluded on the 19th instant. England won by 629 points. Scores were as follows:—

England		Germany	
E. H. Hinds	1457	F. Eberius	1322
C. H. Gale	1243	C. Koch	1434
H. Hancock	1362	F. Nicolai	1191
I. Hooper	1443	I. Mueller	1348
F. Maitland	1264	A. Rombach	1490
T. C. Gray	1503	E. Vollbrecht	1285
C. P. Chater	1539	A. Thiessen	1341
J. W. C. Bonner	1425	I. Thun	1202
11,241		10,612	

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE.

THE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., on the 17th inst. distributed the prizes at St. Joseph's College.

H.E. the GOVERNOR, after distributing the prizes, addressing the boys, said that he had very great pleasure in giving away the prizes, many of which had been earned by diligence. The boys were going to spend their holidays, and he wished them a good time. He hoped that when studies were resumed they would strive to do even better than before. When they went into the bigger world they should show their gratitude to the good Brothers, who spent their lives in teaching them, by becoming good men. Addressing the Rev. Brothers and visitors present, His Excellency said that special attention should be paid to training the boys to be clean in mind so that when they grew up they would become a credit to themselves, the school, and the Colony. Training and education went hand in hand. Training without education lost much good, and education without training might be

mischievous. The report showed how successful the good brothers were in educating the boys. Regarding the difficulties on account of the boys belonging to different nationalities and creeds, it seemed to him that the difficulty could be overcome by making the training in the junior classes more perfect. The boys should not be advanced into the higher classes till they had made themselves thoroughly efficient in the lower grades. He had seen it stated in the local press that he took a great interest in education. He did not see how it was possible for any Government to do otherwise, and therefore no Governor could help but be interested in that matter. The schoolboys of to-day made the citizens of to-morrow.

INQUEST.

RE YUEN CHAN, DECEASED.

The hearing of this inquiry was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 16th instant. The deceased, as previously mentioned, was killed at the Naval Yard Extension by the rope of a crane giving way while nine bags of dirt were being hauled up. The bags falling on him fractured his skull. Mr. Daniels, a partner of the firm, stated in evidence at the last hearing that three men were employed on each crane. This George Sole, engineer in charge of machinery at the yard, stated was correct when the cranes were in constant use. The crane where the accident occurred was only used occasionally, wherefore only one man was kept to look after it. The Coroner, in addressing the jury, said the evidence established the fact that the rope of the crane was reasonably adequate for the work it did. As to signalling, apparently when the crane was in regular work there were always men there whose special duty was to signal. When a crane was only doing occasional work, it was hardly reasonable that the authorities should be compelled to keep a man there all day. The workmen on top ought to understand that they should call out to those below. If the men below did not get out of the way after warning, any accident occurring would be their own fault. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

HONGKONG BRANCH OF THE NAVY LEAGUE.

In the report to be presented to members of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, at the general meeting on Dec. 19, it is stated that the committee has, from time to time, offered gunnery prizes on behalf of this branch of the Navy League, but unfortunately the service regulations do not appear to admit of the acceptance of the offer. Among various local matters of importance, which have occurred during the period under review, may be mentioned the visit to the Far East of Mr. H. F. Wyatt, the Navy League Envoy. In Hongkong Mr. Wyatt delivered two lectures before appreciative audiences, one at the City Hall, on the 2nd June, 1903, at which the late Governor, Sir Henry Blake, took the chair, and the other at the Quarry Bay Sugar Works, at which Mr. D. R. Law presided. Mr. Wyatt also held a successful meeting at Canton, where the number of members of the Navy League in proportion to the number of Britons resident is very satisfactory. The season at which he arrived in Hongkong unfortunately precluded the idea of a general dinner being given to Mr. Wyatt by the members and associates of this Branch, but he was privately entertained by the members of the committee and a useful interchange of views effected. Since the last general meeting of the members and associates of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, which took place in January, 1903, Capt. G. C. Anderson, returned to the old country for a well-earned rest. Subsequently, at the request of the committee, Mr. E. W. Mitchell kindly consented to act as hon. secretary for a few months and later they were able to secure the services of Mr. A. R. Lowe as hon. secretary. Mr. B. Layton, who did yeoman service for this branch as hon. treasurer resigned the post a few months ago, and Mr. N. J. Stabb has kindly consented to act in his place. The following are the present members of

the committee: Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C. (President), The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox, Mr. M. W. Slade, Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. T. E. Cochrane, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. B. Layton, Mr. N. J. Stabb, hon. treasurer, and Mr. A. R. Lowe, hon. secretary. The number of members and associates of this branch is 285 members and 35 associates.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER TO COREA.

As the term of office of H.E. Hsü T'ai-shêng, Chinese Minister at Seoul, expired last November, at the recommendation of Prince Ching, H.E. Tsêng Kuang-ch'uan, a Metropolitan officer of the 4th grade, has been appointed to succeed H.E. Hsü T'ai-shêng, the decree making the appointment, according to the *Universal Gazette*, having been issued on Thursday morning, the 8th instant. H.E. Tsêng Kuang-ch'uan is the nephew and adopted son of the late Marquis Tsêng, former Chinese Minister to Great Britain, where his Excellency the late Minister was quite popular. The new Minister to Corea is better known to Londoners as Lord Kingeast Tsêng, he being an attaché of his adopted father's embassy at that time. A fluent speaker of English and French and a sound Chinese scholar, H.E. Tsêng Kuang-ch'uan was the late Li Hung Chang's right-hand man during the peace negotiations in Peking in 1901. For these services Tsêng was promoted from his then rank of first-class secretary of the Board of Works to that of expectant Metropolitan officer of the 4th grade, this making him eligible for the post of a Minister of the second class to a foreign Court. His Excellency was also of much service to the Chinese Treaty Commissioners at Shanghai during the tariff negotiations last year, when he acted as translator and interpreter for a few months until the death at Shanghai of his adopted mother, the late Dowager Marchioness Tsêng, mother of the present Marquis Tsêng Kuang-lan. An able, patriotic and a progressive official, we may confidently anticipate a most honourable career for his Excellency in the Diplomatic profession he has chosen. His Excellency is about forty years of age.

THE CHILDREN'S LEAGUE BAZAAR.

We are asked by Mrs. May, the President of the Ministering Children's League, to state that the proceeds of the Bazaar recently held by the Ministering Children's League have been distributed amongst the following charities:—

Victoria Home and Orphanage ... \$	425.00
Blindenheim	425.00
Miss Johnstone's Baxter Mission..	100.00
French Convent	100.00
Italian Convent	100.00
Diocesan Girls' School... ..	50.00

Total \$1,200.00

THE CHINESE IN FORMOSA.

A long lecture delivered in Shanghai recently by Mr. Consul Davidson of Formosa included the following extract: The Chinese population may be divided into two classes, the Hoklo, who speak the Amoy dialect and who came originally from Fokien province, and the Hakka, who speak a Cantonese dialect and immigrated chiefly from the Kwangtung province, where they were practically outcasts. The Hakkas are a hardy and warlike race and predominate in the savage border districts, where land could be obtained for the taking and where a certain freedom from official oppression was ensured.

Unlike their Hoklo brethren, they are generally fearless, and we thus find them, of all Chinese, most willing to undertake the making of camphor in dangerous districts. There are a few prosperous Hakka villages in the plains; but, as a rule, the Hakka prefers the hills. It is roughly estimated that there are in the islands nearly 500,000 of these people.

The Hoklo, who number over 2,000,000, are the predominant race throughout the island. They have brought with them the customs of their homeland to such a degree that a Chinese

village in Formosa presents the same features as a village in their home province. The houses are of like materials and are crowded together in the same unsanitary way, the narrow ill-smelling streets present the same filth and are as irregular, the street hawkers have the same call and exhibit the same wares, and the people are alike in their dress and habits. Like their brethren on the mainland they are industrious and economical, but, unfortunately, unclean and superstitious. If they possess any advantages over the great masses of the Chinese mainland, it is that the present generation are less anti-foreign and more liberal in many ways. The parents of the thousands of the Formosan Chinese arrived as strangers, practically, in a foreign land; they doubtless met with hardships and unfriendliness while obtaining a foothold, and it is perhaps this fact that has made them look with more kindly spirit towards strangers in general. Without a doubt, the splendid work of the missionary bodies in the island, who lived down the disfavour with which they were at first regarded, accounts to a great degree for the absence of any strong anti-foreign spirit among the people at present.

The first arrivals were Japanese and Chinese pirates, and towards the close of the fifteenth century Chinese officials had frequent contests with them at sea. The turbulent days following, which recorded the advance of the Tartars over China, drove to the island many daring spirits, including that remarkable warrior and leader, Koxinga.

THE MAILS.

The following letters appeared in the minutes of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce
Shanghai, 21st October, 1904.

The Chairman,

The London Chamber of Commerce,
Oxford Court, London, E.C.

SIR,—The irregularity and uncertainty of the arrival of letters from Europe forwarded by the Messageries Maritimes has for some long time caused great inconvenience and dissatisfaction among merchants and others here.

During the current year the mails by English Packet have been delivered on an average in 32.1 days, by German Packet in 33.6 days, and by French Packet in 35.1 days.

The chief cause of complaint, however, is not in respect of the difference in the average time, but, as above stated, in the irregularity and uncertainty attached to the arrival of the French Mail.

The accompanying table [omitted] showing dates of departure and arrival, number of days occupied in transit, and the interval between arrivals of French and English Mails, demonstrates, I think very clearly, that the idea of a weekly service is very far from realisation.

European correspondents are apt to imagine that in posting duplicates of English Mail advices by the following French Mail, they are ensuring the arrival of letters and documents in advance of cargo. This, however, is by no means the case, and serious inconvenience and delay are caused by the reverse of this being a common experience.

It is possible that this state of affairs is not so fully appreciated at Home as it is on this side, and as this Chamber feels that the matter is one of very considerable importance I venture to ask the good offices of your Chamber in bringing it to the notice of the Postal Authorities, in the hope that a solution of the difficulty may be found, either in the improvement of the present service or in its substitution by another and more efficient medium.

I may add that it has happened more than once that an overdue French Mail has been brought from Singapore or Hongkong by an English Mail steamer, thus bringing within the range of possibility the loss of both original and duplicate advices, a contingency which might involve very serious consequence.

I am also addressing the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on this subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM D. LITTLE,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 4th November, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21st ultimo with copy of your Chamber's letter of that date addressed to the London Chamber drawing attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the French Mail Service and suggesting that the matter be laid before the Postal Authorities.

2.—The Government here has recently arranged for the despatch of an Outward and Homeward Mail Service via Negapatam through the more efficient medium of the British India Steam Navigation Company, as explained in the accompanying extract from the Chairman's address at the half-yearly General Meeting held on the 22nd September last.

We fear any representations on the part of this Chamber to the Postal Authorities here would therefore have little effect, and we are at present practically independent of the French Mail Service; still, we are quite in sympathy with your Chamber in this matter.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. J. GUNN,
Secretary.

ANOTHER CHINESE SQUEEZE STOPPED.

Upon the completion of a gaol for culprits the other day by the Shanghai Municipal Authorities to take the place of the miserable squalid quarters, under the charge of an avaricious and relentless female gaoler, at the Mixed Court, the Magistrate of that tribunal was communicated with, asking that all Chinese females lying under sentence in that Court for offences committed within the Municipal jurisdiction should be transferred to the new gaol. The Magistrate appears to have refused his consent to the change, but Yuan Taotai of Shanghai is apparently much more amenable to reason, for we are informed, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that, appealed to by the Senior-Consul, he at once sent instructions to the Mixed Court to have the female culprits imprisoned there transferred to the new Municipal Gaol for women. It must be borne in mind that the female gaoler of a Chinese yamen is the possessor of a most lucrative billet, a portion of whose income it may be safe to assume finds its way up to higher quarters, so that under the circumstances there need be no surprise at the non-success of a first attempt to what would be the virtual abolition of a post like this. Of those unfortunates whose evil star had put them into the clutches of these female gaolers, there are well-authenticated cases where a victim, on showing inability, or perhaps obstinacy, in refusing to pay for the privilege and, comparatively speaking, luxury of being allowed to sleep on a bed of pine boards, has been tied to a plank, standing edgewise, and compelled to lie on it until she promised to "pay the fees." This we know is only a comparatively mild torture exercised upon indigent delinquents.

THE INTERNATIONAL TROOPS IN CHINA.

The following interesting extract with reference to the detachments of troops of the different nations serving at Peking as guards to their respective legations is from the report of one of the United States officers serving there: "Most Americans sent from the Philippines develop malaria soon after arrival, the cold serving to bring out the latent organisms, but after treatment for a fortnight with quinine, the trouble disappears, not to return, and invariably the patients gain in weight from ten to thirty pounds afterwards. I am told the same is noted with the French who come from Indo-China and the British from Hongkong and other tropical possessions. I am sorry to say that although the Americans preserve excellent discipline, drunkenness is more prevalent among them than the other nationalities. Possibly this is due to the lack of the canteen system with us. The British have a well-established post exchange, where light beer is sold, and in connection a club room, which tends to keep the soldier in barracks and preserve sobriety. The French give a ration of wine; likewise the Italians and Austrians.

The Japanese sell beer and sake in their compound but never have a case of drunkenness. The Germans have a home-like rathskeller, where beer and German foods are sold, and their drunkenness is nil. The American soldier is the most sought after, as he has far more pay to spend than the other nationalities, and the result is the extra tendency to fall into the hands of saloon-keepers, who especially cater to encourage this trade."

CHINA AND RUSSIAN WARSHIPS IN SHANGHAI.

Recently, says the *Universal Gazette*, foreign newspapers have frequently reported that two of the Russian warships at Shanghai are coaling in order to escape from the port and to meet the Baltic fleet. The matter is one of the most grave nature, and if the reports in foreign papers be true, China cannot escape from the responsibility of her neutral duties being violated. It will cause Shanghai to be involved in the trouble and it will not only cause accusations from Japan but the Powers concerned will blame the Chinese authorities. Though the matter looks a simple affair at a glance yet it is not at all such a simple matter. Therefore we have decided to publish the following facts according to the dates.

On the 24th August the Russian warships commenced to dismantle and then anchored alongside the wharf of the Chinese Eastern Railway Company.

Then the Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai informed the Shanghai Taotai, that China should despatch a warship to take up a position near the Russian warships to watch them.

Then the Russian Minister asked the Waiwupu to keep the Chinese warship to watch the Russian warships at a distance so as to maintain the dignity of the Russian warships.

At the end of the 8th moon, namely the beginning of October, the Viceroy at Nanking ordered the cruiser *Kinching* to come to Shanghai to watch the Russian warships.

At the beginning of the 10th moon (November) the *Kinching* came to Shanghai and anchored at the Southern wharf, when the crew of the *Biesitellini* came to Shanghai and were removed on board the *Mandjour*, but the Captain of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer is missing.

On the 26th November the crew of the *Ratstoropny* came to Shanghai by the Chinese cruiser *Haiyung*.

On a certain day the Japanese Consul-General wrote the Shanghai Taotai asking to have the *Kinching* at a nearer position to the Russian warship as she is too far away from them.

Then the Shanghai Taotai answered the Japanese Consul-General that the *Kinching* being damaged is now repairing in the dock and cannot undock before the beginning of the 12th moon (January 1905), but when properly repaired she will be moored at Shahaipu.

Then it was reported that the Japanese Consul-General wished to have the Chinese cruiser anchored at the China Merchants' Pootung wharf instead of Sha-haipu as the latter place was too far away from the Russian warships.

However the idea of the Shanghai Taotai was that as Sha-haipu being below the stream from the position of the Russian warships is preferable and he had decided to anchor the *Kinching* at the front of the International Dock at Shahaipu.

The Japanese Consul-General further warned the Shanghai Taotai that at this moment it was very important to watch the Russian warship. If owing to the repairs of the *Kinching* there was no Chinese warship to watch them, there might something unexpected happen and therefore the Shanghai Taotai should get instructions from Viceroy Chou Fu to despatch other warships. The Taotai has asked the Viceroy to despatch the cruiser *Nanchin*, but she has not come here yet.

There are many reports that the Russian cruiser coaled over one thousand tons and that duplicates of the parts of the machinery which were removed have been obtained by her so as to slip out of Shanghai to meet the Baltic fleet, &c. On Dec. 13th the Japanese Consul-General wrote the Shanghai Taotai giving the reasons for such rumour.

The *Sinwanpao* adds: As to the number of wounded crew of the Russian warships for whom the Consul-General has asked the Shanghai Taotai to get permission to return home, the Shanghai Taotai has been ordered by the Peking Government by wire to examine the said wounded crew and report upon their actual condition. Therefore the Taotai has asked the Commissioner of Imperial Customs in Shanghai to engage a foreign doctor to see the wounded crew and report upon them.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

Mr. E. C. Wilton, British Vice-Consul at Chungking, has been made a Companion of St. Michael and St. George.

A bequest of £500 to the China Inland Mission was made by the late Mr. Hammond Chubb (for many years Secretary of the Bank of England).

The *Universal Gazette* says that Germany has again asked for the lease of Poyang lake and that the authorities of the province of Kiangsi have wired the Waiwupu to refuse the proposal.

The Shanghai Taotai has received a despatch from the Japanese Consul-General pointing out that the Russian cruiser *Askold* has been lately taking in large quantities of coal, altogether out of proportion to the amount needed for heating purposes on board that vessel during the winter, and further that it has been discovered that duplicates of important parts of the machinery and large guns of the *Askold* had also been lately secretly taken on board to replace those taken away to the Kiangnan Arsenal for safe keeping, at the time of the dismantling of the cruiser. In view of this the Japanese authorities have a suspicion that those on board the *Askold* are intending to make a dash for liberty in that vessel, in consequence of which it is needful that the Chinese officials should keep a sharp look-out on the vessel for which they are responsible.

The Yungpingfu correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes: At a town near to Pakou we fell in with a young Chinese giant, and felt almost sorry we were not relatives of Barnum that we might exploit him. Seated in an inn one day writing, with a curious crowd round me in the usual style, my friend drew my attention to a man who had just joined the throng. He was stretching his head over the others, and I could not believe that he was not mounted on a box or something of that sort. But his feet were on the ground and his head was a long way from the ground. We measured him, and found him to be six feet nine and a-half inches, and as he was strongly and sturdily built he was a very fine specimen of humanity. I laughingly suggested to him that he should offer himself to Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai, as a candidate for post of personal bodyguard, and his reply in substance was: "Wouldn't I just like the chance!"

TRADE ITEMS.

The dividend of the Hamburg-American Line for 1904 is estimated at between 8 and 10 per cent., perhaps 9½ per cent.

In explanation of the figures in the table, Mr. Hosie writes: "The figures set down against each area represent the minimum output. In each case there is an excess, but the exact amount thereof is unattainable. I have thought it advisable, therefore, to add 10 per cent. for this excess as well as for trifling omissions, and the total may be taken to be as near the actual output as it is possible to make it."

An amusing story, illustrative of the attitude of the Japanese trader towards European patents, is going the rounds of the Berlin press. Many German articles bear the letters "D.R.M.S.," which stand for "Deutscher Reichs-Muster-Schutz," or, literally, German Imperial Sample Protection. It occurred to a Japanese to register these letters as his trade mark; and now he is bringing actions against German importers, whose wares bear them.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. have received a telegram from London informing them that the "Shell" Transport Co., Ltd. have declared an Interim Dividend on account of 1904 of 1/- (One Shilling) per Ordinary Share, payable on the 1st January, 1905. Holders of Warrants to Bearer will receive this dividend against Coupon No. 5, which may be negotiated through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The *Nagasaki Press* of December 12th states that a syndicate has been formed in Tokyo for the purpose of establishing a general printing, publishing, typefounding, and stationery business in China. The capital is to be Yen 600,000 in 12,000 shares to be floated as a joint-stock concern, and it is stated that the subscription is already guaranteed. Some of the promoters are going to China next month in connection with the scheme.

The Mexican Government asked Congress on Nov. 17 for authority to carry out the scheme of monetary reform which they had determined upon. It is understood that the Government will close the mints to the free coinage of silver to private holders, but not for export purposes, and that the actual dollar will ultimately be worth one-half of the value of an American gold dollar. Thus the consumption of silver in Mexico will be the same as before.

The following companies, unless cause is shown to the contrary, will be struck off the register in three months' time:—The China Ginger Manufacturing Company, Limited; Ramie Fibre Company, Limited; Weihaiwei Mining Syndicate, Limited; Hongkong Marina, Limited; Stoneley Gold Prospecting Company, Limited; Hongkong Building Materials Company, Limited; Heung Sing Steam-Boat Company, Limited.

United States Minister Allen, Seoul, Corea, reports:—"I was visited in July by the agent of the British and American Tobacco Company who desired to have the company's trade-marks or labels registered in Corea. There being no system of registration of trade-marks in this country, I secured the issuance of a proclamation forbidding the counterfeiting of the labels of this company or the use of their boxes for containing spurious goods." The Minister adds that the Japanese Minister to Corea has stated that his Government will protect in Corea trade-marks that are registered in Japan.

H.M. Consul-General at Ch'engt'u (Mr. A. Hosie) reports that the red sandstone of Szech'uan is unsuited to the cultivation of cotton, but there is a small area of the province, with a superincumbent layer of alluvial soil, where the cotton plant flourishes. This area lies to the north of the great reha-producing districts between the Fou, the western branch of the Chia-ling, and the T'o River. The city of Sui-ning, and the market town of Tai-ho ch'en are the great centres of the native cotton trade, as well as of the import trade in Indian yarn, which is largely used, mixed with native yarn, in the weaving of cottons, a very important industry in this cotton-producing area. There can be no doubt, however, adds the Consul-General, that cotton growing in Szech'uan is on the decline in face of cheap Indian yarn.

The Canadian Commercial Agent in Yokohama (Mr. A. McLean) reports that the consumption in Japan of wire nails is increasing every year. In 1903 the quantity imported was 39,104,000 pounds, valued at 754,462 dols., mostly from the United States and Germany, whose manufacturers, it is believed, have an understanding as to prices. Great Britain does not send very many nails, only 473,000 odd pounds, but they are the best. Jobbers' prices in American nails range at present from 2.90 dols. per keg for 12 gauge, 2½ inch, to 2.75 dols. for 5 gauge, 7 inch. This includes the duty of 29 cents per keg. Nails for the Japanese market should be packed in extra strong kegs, 134 pounds net, lined with pitch paper to protect against rust, which causes them to sell as damaged stock.

In his report on the Province of Szech'uan H.M. Consul-General at Ch'engt'u (Mr. A. Hosie) gives the following summary of the quantity and value of raw silk produced in that province:—

Kind of Silk	Weight in Ch. ounces	Piculs	Lbs.	Value in Taels
Thin yellow..	1,480,000	6,550	873,333½	2,863,600
Stout yellow..	362,000	22,625	3,016,666½	7,979,000
Stout white...	1,660,000	7,912.5	1,555,000	2,817,300
	59,340,000	37,087.5	4,945,000	13,659,900
10 per cent. for extras and omissions ..	5,934,000	3,768.7	494,500	1,365,930
Total ...	65,274,000	40,796	5,439,500	15,025,230

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. of Shanghai, in their Circular, dated 12th December, state:—Black Teas.—Market closed. Total settlements for season 54,831 half-chests against 81,681 half-chests, last year. Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—A small business has been done at previous rates. Common Teas are weak and tea-men would be willing sellers at a small decline, but at present no enquiry exists for this grade. Country Teas.—There are about 1,000 half-chests of coarse liquoring Moyune on the market and no further supply of any bulk is expected. Local Packs and Fychows.—About 4,000 half-chests are left on the market, but being of coarse quality will not attract buyers unless at low prices. Foong Mees and Sou Mees.—The market has been cleared of Foong Mees, there are about 400 half-chests of Sou Mees which the tea-men are holding for a demand. Settlements since 28th November:—10,096 half-chests. Total settlements since opening of market to date:—348,755 half-chests; Stock 38,076 half-chests. Last year's figures were:—438,419 half-chests; Stock 7,139 half-chests. Settlements of Hyson and Young Hyson since opening of market to date:—Arrivals 140,321 half-chests, settlements 188,913 half-chests, stock 1,408 half-chests.

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to Great Britain has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Dust, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904..	25,474,011	574,927	2,648,269
" 1903..	8,497,680	—	5,002,472
" 1902..	6,005,814	—	3,777,539

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to the United States and Canada has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904 ..	6,862,531	16,463,402
" 1903 ..	6,545,641	20,275,847
" 1902 ..	10,322,962	16,810,573

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to other European ports:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904..	20,389,027	4,424,532	1,624,689
" 1903..	2,701,833	—	1,712,335
" 1902..	1,861,101	—	1,149,997

From commencement of Season the export of Black Tea direct to Russia has been:—

	Total to date, 1904.....	854,800	1,049,467 lbs.
" 1903.....	12,388,860	—	"
" 1902.....	18,862,521	—	"

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to Bombay and other ports has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904 ..	77,067	643,067
" 1903 ..	166,003	1,273,801
" 1902 ..	79,031	1,078,168

From commencement of Season the export of Green Tea to Batoum and Novorossisk, &c., has been:—

Total to date, 1904	7,641,332 lbs.
" 1903	12,259,866 "
" 1902	9,053,974 "

The Export of Tea to Russian Manchuria via Port Arthur, Newchwang and Tientsin has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.	Dust, lbs.
1904..	3,438,669	32,814,911	184,268	241,234
1903..	32,538,634	34,943,601	2,031,321	147,333
1902..	39,778,618	5,496,870	2,405,387	957,628

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th Dec.—The prices are advancing, holders being firm.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.65 to \$8.70 pels.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.85 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.25 to 6.30 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.95 to 5.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 6.15 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	4.90 to 5.00 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.50 to 12.00 "
Shekloong	10.85 to 11.00 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th Dec.—The prices are nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.35 to \$2.40
" Round, good quality	4.05 to 4.10
" Long	4.20 to 4.25
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.65 to 2.75
" Garden, " No. 1	2.75 to 2.80
" White,	4.15 to 4.25
" Fine Cargo	4.45 to 4.65

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai, 15th December, states:—In compliance with the wishes of the Importers, expressed through the Chamber of commerce, the Imperial Maritime Customs have issued the following notice, to which we wish especially to call the attention of shippers in Manchester in order that their invoices for this market may be worded accordingly. We venture to think that if this innovation is carried out strictly it will serve a very useful purpose.

"In order to simplify classification, Importers are requested in future to report as Sheetings all Grey Cotton Piece Goods measuring 4 1/2 yards long and 36 inches wide, and packed 30 pieces in a bale, or 20 pieces in a truss, and two trusses in a bale; and as Shirtings all such goods packed more than 20 pieces in a bale or truss."

It was intended originally to word the notification so that it would apply equally to Manchester and American makes. Unfortunately, however, there is no uniformity of custom and, since it was issued, it is found that the addition of the words "or 20 pieces in a truss and two trusses in a bale" can be applied to some English goods imported in quite a considerable quantity which are packed that way and at the same time are called Shirtings. If those words were omitted, therefore, the notification would apply very well to Manchester goods, as the coarse Yarn Sheetings, which it is desirable to keep separate, are not trussed. In the New York Invoices there does not appear to be a recognised system, and for the most part they designate two bales hooped or roped together a truss, whereas in Manchester it is the other way about, that is, two trusses (or small bales) hooped are called a bale, each of the trusses being numbered separately. If therefore the words mentioned above are omitted from the notification it might be applied to English Grey goods, and as regards American it would be advisable for the Chamber of Commerce here to communicate with the New York Chamber and see if some uniform system cannot be arrived at. The most desirable distinction would of course be by the Count of the Cloth. Even in Manchester there is no set system, some packers calling all 12-lbs. 36-inch. goods without a Fancy heading Sheetings, while others call them Shirtings! Piece Goods.—The market since the date of our last report has been in a state bordering on stagnation. As the true price to which American Cotton had fallen in Liverpool became more widely known the dealers seemed more inclined to quit their holdings than to talk about further operations. As was anticipated there has been a slight reaction in Cotton, the latest quotation being 4.21d. for Mid-American, though Egyptian is easier at 7 1/2d. The decline has made no perceptible difference to Manchester quotations, but from New York we hear a few makes are offering at a decline of as much as six-pence per piece, but there are no buyers for this market. Some consternation was caused in the market here by the announcement that a large native holder intended to dispose of his stock of Cotton Flannels by Auction, and some 600 cases were actually put up and sold, but any effect there may have been is confined to that particular make. Some of the long delayed supplies of American Domestic are at length arriving, but the inclination seems to be to take advantage of the present favourable Exchange, pay for the goods and store them in the steamer Godowns to await shipment at the opening of the Spring trade. There appears to be some hitch about the Chin-wang-tai route at present, the Railway Company not being able to guarantee the safety of goods, and the Steamer Companies wanting so much more freight to provide the necessary protection. It is difficult to get at the bottom of it, however, as the Companies concerned are very reticent about it. There is no particular news from the Outports. Hankow has not as yet recovered her activity, and the cause of the stagnation there is still a subject for conjecture. From private enquiries in Tientsin it seems that, after all, the direct business done this year in American Piece Goods has been very small, not more than 10,000 bales. The rise in Sterling Exchange is being felt in the imported Yarn trade, the business being very small and prices down another tael. Cotton is drooping in sympathy with the home markets.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 180.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 185.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
Reported sales 10,000 bales.	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs. ..	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs. ...	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 " ..	3.10 to 3.80
64 to 66 " ..	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 ") ..	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.90 to 3.20

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

HANKOW, December 14th, 1904.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	35.00
Do. Seconds	31.00
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	19.00
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white colour ..	57.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	9.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.20
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	10.20
Green China Grass, Szechuen	9.70
Jute	4.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.50
Animal Tallow	9.20
Gallnuts, Usual shape	17.50
Do. Plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Pingchow	(nominal)
Do. Woukong	"
Black Bristles	120.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	21.50
" " Wild Duck	24.90
Turmeric	3.00
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed-Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	7.35
Tea Oil	9.00

Per steamer *Telemachus*, sailed on 9th December For Odessa:—700 cases cassia. For Odessa:—59 boxes galangal. For Odessa:—10 cases bristles. For Beyrouth:—100 cases cassia. For Trieste:—400 bales cassia. For London:—214 cases china-ware and blackwood ware. For London:—557 rolls mats. For London:—262 bags copra. For London:—75 cases shells. For London:—8 bags shells. For London:—55 cases sundries and plevate effects. For London:—300 casks ginger. For London:—52 cases camphor. For London:—146 bales feathers. For London or Glasgow:—70 casks preserves. For London or L'pool or Glasgow:—30 casks preserves. For London or L'pool or Glasgow:—140 cases preserves. For London or Dundee or Glasgow:—100 casks preserves. For London or Continent:—20 cases essential oil. For London or Continent:—242 bales feathers. For London or Continent:—11 cases bristles. For London or Continent:—749 bales canes. For London or Continent:—300 rolls matting. For London or Continent:—100 cases cassia. For Hamburg:—7 cases shells. For Copenhagen:—82 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—170 casks ginger. For Rotterdam or Amsterdam:—201 bales canes. For Antwerp:—417 bales feathers. For Antwerp:—154 rolls matting. For Antwerp:—20 bales canes.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nubia*, sailed on 17th Dec. For London:—10 cases bristles, 450 rolls mats and matting, 3 cases curios, 2 cases blackwood ware, 100 bales bamboo splits, 3 cases cigars, 14 cases silks, 402 bales waste silk, 20 bales raw silk, 2 packages old documents. For Manchester:—125 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—103 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 1 box silk embroideries, 55 bales raw-silk, 1 case feathers, 3 cases birds feathers.

Per P. & O. steamer *Candia*, sailed on 21st Dec. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London:—4 cases hats, 562 bales hemp, 1 case essence of ylang ylang, 455 bales tea, 6 cases camphor, 2 cases curios, 1 case china, 70 bales canes, 207 bales split bamboo, or Hamburg Rotterdam or Glasgow, 15 bales feathers or Hamburg. For London:—2 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases bambooware, 95 cases chinaware, 8 cases woodware, 10 cases copperware, 50 rolls matting. For Marseilles:—2 cases birds feathers. For Rioode Janeiro via Marseilles:—720 packages firecrackers, 130 packages firecrackers opt Santos.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd December, 1904.—Our market has continued dull during the week, with weakness the predominating feature, although at the time of closing a slightly firmer feeling is apparent. The business which has been transacted has been almost entirely for settlement account; investing and new speculative business being almost at a standstill. The continued firmness of sterling exchange is the chief cause for the latter feature of the market. The settlements for the end of the month are now practically all arranged, and any anxiety as to their issue, if ever there were any real grounds for such, is entirely dispelled as far as Hongkong is concerned.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue very steady with small sales at \$715, the market closing with probable further small buyers at that rate, although it is likely that larger parcels are obtainable. The London rate remains at £70. 10. 0d. Nationals remain unchanged at \$39.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have again changed hands at \$700, but close with a few shares off-ring at the reduced rate of \$690. Cantons remain unchanged and without business. China Traders are obtainable at \$58½ with no sales to report. Yangtszes and North Chinas remain unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires have changed hands at \$9 and Hongkongs are weaker with sellers in place of buyers at \$335.

SHIPPING.—Indos have ruled weaker, the rate gradually falling to \$126, chiefly owing to a weakness in Shanghai, the latter weakness being doubtlessly caused by the slump in Farnhams and other local stocks, the immediate result of which was instructions from that port to Hongkong Agents not to sent up settlement shares, but to sell locally at the best price. At the time of writing a much firmer feeling is apparent both here and in Shanghai; and after small local sales at \$127 the market closes firm at \$127½ buyers forward at rather better than proportionate rates, whilst in Shanghai the rate has been to Tls. 90. Hongkong, Canton and Macao have continued to rule weak with sellers and no sales at \$28½ and no buyers over \$28. Douglases are enquired for at \$33½ after small sales at that rate. China and Manilas have changed hands at \$23. New Star Ferries have declined to \$29 with sellers, and Shells to 25/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars in the early part of the week ruled very weak and business was transacted as low as \$223 for the settlement. Later shares changed hands at \$224 and \$225 the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. On time sales were effected at \$235 and \$232 for March, and at proportionate rates to June. Luzons have declined to \$15, but buyers at that rate rule the market.

MINING.—No business to report. Raubs have further declined to \$4.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined to \$216, after small sales at \$217 and \$216½. Buyers will not offer more than \$215. Kowloon Wharves have also declined to \$112 with sellers and without sales. Farnhams have ruled very weak in Shanghai, the rate suddenly dropping to Tls. 153. At time of closing the local rate is \$155 with small sale. While Shanghai quotes Tls. 153.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled weak with small sales at \$148 and later at \$146½. Hotels are slightly easier with sellers at \$144½. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—Nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents are on offer at \$9½. Fenwicks at \$45. Ices at \$255. Steam Waterbois at \$20. Green Islands have changed hands at \$30. Powells at \$12 and \$12½, and old Electrics at \$15.

MEMOS.—Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., ordinary annual general meeting on 13rd instant, transfer books closed from 20th to 26th instant. Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co. call of \$7.50 on shares not fully paid up (new issue), due 2nd January, 1905.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$715, sales L'don, £70. 10.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$39
B. Shares	£8	\$39
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$690, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$58½, sellers
North China	£5	Tls. 96, sales & sel.
Yangtsze	\$60	\$150
Canton	\$50	\$250, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$28½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$127, buyers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$23, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33½, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$40, sellers
	\$5	\$29, sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	£1	25/-, sellers
Do. pref. shares	£10	£8. 10.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$22½, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$400
Raubs	18, 10d.	\$4, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$216, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$112, sellers
New Amoy Dock ...	\$6½	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 155
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$147, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38½, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$59, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$144½, sellers
	\$10	\$12½, sellers
Humphreys Estate. ...	\$2½	\$5, sellers
S'hai Land Ins. Co. Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 20
Laon Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13½, sellers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	\$5½
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$13½, buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$30, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co...	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$30, sales
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$15, buyers
	\$5	\$9, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$160, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$265, ex div.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$155, buyers
Hk. Steam Water- ...	\$10	\$20, sellers
Boat Co., Ld.		
Phippine Tobacco ...	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Trust Co., Ld.		
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ld. ...		
S. C. Morning Post ...	\$25	\$21½, buyers
China Light & Power	\$10	\$10, sellers
Co., Ld.		
	\$5	\$7
Steam Laundry Co., ...	\$3	\$4, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½
Do	\$10	\$180
Watkins, Ld.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
	\$10	\$13, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, sellers
	\$10	\$12½, buyers
William Powell, Ld...	\$10	\$12½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s in their Share Report dated 16th December, 1904, state:—The principal feature in our market during the past week has been the collapse in the market price of Weihaiwei Gold Mining shares, and we have to record an appalling fall during the week from \$22 to \$7. The fall is due to a circular issued by the Company calling for an informal meeting for to-day to raise immediate funds to save the shutting down of the mine. At the time of writing there is a better feeling regarding the stock, and shares are in demand at \$8. In Farnhams, there is also a decline in rates from Tls. 175 December delivery to sellers at 169 December. Indos and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have maintained their

rates. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/8½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—Buyers in the South offer \$715 for shares. Marine and Fire Insurance.—The only business in Marine shares is in North China Insurances at Tls. 95 at which rate there are sellers. China Fires are offering locally at \$90. Shipping.—Indos. The market during the week has ruled very steady opening at Tls. 91½ December, rising to 92, 92½ and 93 for March, and for April at 96. Shanghai Tugs (preference shares) have been placed at Tls. 48, and ord. at Tls. 52. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Barnham, Boyd & Co. A very large business has been done in shares during the week, mostly covering for December Settlement. The market opened on the 8th inst. with sales for cash at Tls. 173 and 175, and 175 December, 174½ and 181. March. On the 9th at 174½ cash, 175 December. On the 10th at 175 December, 177 January, 181 March. On the 12th at 174, 173½ and 172½ Dec. 174½ January, 178 and 178 March. On the 14th 172½, 172, 171, 170 and 169 December, and 177 and 176 March. At closing the market is weaker with sellers at Tls. 169. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A considerable business has been done in these in covering for the end of the month at Tls. 154 and 155 December, c.n.i., with sales for March at Tls. 157. The market closes quiet with no buyers or sellers. Yangtsze Wharf and Godown Co. These shares have changed hands at Tls. 187½. Sugars.—A very large rise has taken place in Luzons. On the 7th quotations stood at \$12½, closing there are buyers at \$21 in the South Peraks. This Company announces a dividend of Tls. 2½, the meeting is called for the 19th inst. Mining.—The only business in stocks under this heading is in Weihaiwei Golds, and these we have referred to above. Lands.—No business reported. Small lots of Shanghai Lands are wanted at Tls. 117. Hongkong Lands are wanted in the South at \$148. Industrial.—Cotton Stocks. The only business reported is the sale of Laon Kung Mows at Tls. 30. The Ewo O. S. & W. Co. have issued their report for the year which will be presented to share holders on the 23rd inst. The profit and loss account now shows a balance of Tls. 12844.76, which is proposed to be carried forward to next account. Shanghai Ices have been placed at Tls. 19. Shanghai Paper and Pulp are offering cash and December delivery at Tls. 170. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Business during the week has been quiet, although rates have been very steady with sales at Tls. 302½ and 305 for March, 305 April and for December delivery at 293½. Shanghai Sumatras, no business doing. Stores and Hotels.—Weeks have been placed at \$18. Mounties at \$55. Hall & Holtz are offering at \$29. Hotel des Colonies have been placed at Tls. 20½. Miscellaneous.—Only business reported is in Telephones at Tls. 68. Debenture Stocks.—nothing doing. Astor House 8 per cent. Debentures are enquired for.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 24th December.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/	11½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	244
Credits 4 months' sight	247½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	198
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	144½
Bank, on demand	14½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	144½
Bank, on demand	144½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	95½
ON MANILA. —On demand	93½
ON SINGAPORE. —On demand ...	2½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA. —On demand	116½
ON HAIPHONG. —On demand	145 p.m.
ON SAIGON. —On demand	1 p.m.
ON BANGKOK. —On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....	10.20
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.00
SILVER, per oz	28½

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—
ARRIVALS.
 16, Johanne, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Nubia, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Pleiades, American str., from Moji.
 16, Scotsman, British str., from Moji.
 16, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 16, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
 16, Waishing, British str., from Canton.
 16, Wongkoi, German str., from Swatow.
 17, Albion, British battleship, from W'haiwei.
 17, Highlander, British str., from Moji.
 17, Hyson, British str., from Liverpool.
 17, Luchs, German gunboat, from Canton.
 17, Malta, British str., from Bombay.
 17, Manica, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, New Orleans, U.S. cruiser, from Chefoo.
 17, Phuyen, French str., from Sourabaya.
 17, Siam, British str., from Langkat.
 17, Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
 18, Australian, British str., from Melbourne.
 18, Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 18, Chibbi, British str., from Tientsin.
 18, Deramore, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 18, Elae, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Ferndene, British str., from Batoum.
 18, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Kashang, British str., from Tientsin.
 18, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 18, Profit, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 18, Shansi, British str., from Tongku.
 18, Silverlip, British str., from London.
 18, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Yiksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 19, Acme, American 4-m. ship, from Kobe.
 19, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 19, Clavering, British str., from Salina Cruz.
 19, Diomed, British str., from Amoy.
 19, Ikbai, British str., from Chinwantan.
 19, Korat, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 19, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 19, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Senegambia, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Candia, British str., from Yokohama.
 20, Emprs. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 20, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 20, Fausang, British str., from Java.
 20, Geo. T. Hay, British ship, from Cebu.
 20, Gregory Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Kaise in Elisabeth, Aust. cr., from Amoy.
 20, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Loksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 20, Lydia, German str., from Canton.
 20, Satsuma, British str., from New York.
 20, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 21, Adamastor, Portuguese cr., from Amoy.
 21, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Samarang.
 21, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 21, M. Struv, German str., from Tamsui.
 21, Ningchow, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 22, Bawtry, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Dunav, Austrian str., from Kutchinotzu.
 22, Elis. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 22, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 22, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
 22, Manchuria, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.
 22, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 22, Nanshan, British str., from Moji.
 22, Orange, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 22, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Roon, German str., from Hamburg.
 22, Sithonia, German str., from Hamburg.
 22, Sobralense, British str., from Liverpool.
 22, Sperber, German gunboat, from Taintan.
 22, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 22, Workfield, British str., from Cardiff.
 23, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 23, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, Ocean, British battleship, from W'haiwei.
 23, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 23, Vengeance, British battleship, from Amoy.
 23, Zweena, British str., from Rangoon.

December— DEPARTURES.

16, Ambria, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Benmohr, British str., for Sourabaya.
 16, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Cyrus, British str., for Sourabaya.
 16, Eiger, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 16, Hailong, British str., for Coast Ports.
 16, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 16, Henry Belokon, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
 16, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Kweiyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 16, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Texan, British str., for Honolulu.
 17, Auchenarden, British str., for K'hinotzu.
 17, Benarty, British str., for Nagasaki.
 17, Changchow, British str., for Moji.
 17, Craigeam, British str., for Yokohama.
 17, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
 17, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17, New Orleans, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.
 17, Nubia, British str., for Europe.
 17, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 17, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 17, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Cranley, British str., for Chefoo.
 18, Frithjef, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 18, Loosok, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 19, Chibbi, British str., for Canton.
 19, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Ferndene, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kashang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Manica, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 19, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 19, Tientsin, British str., for Yokohama.
 19, Yiksang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Calchas, British str., for Manila.
 20, Diomed, British str., for London.
 20, Elae, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, Gaeland, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Ikbai, British str., for Durban.
 20, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 20, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 21, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Anhui, British str., for Chefoo.
 21, Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 21, Candia, British str., for London.
 21, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Dilwara, British transport, for Singapore.
 21, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 21, Johanne, German str., for Hoihow.
 21, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Lennox, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
 21, Magallanes, Amr. str., for Saigon.
 21, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Onda, British str., for Singapore.
 21, P. E. Friedrich, German str., for Europe.
 21, Senegambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 21, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 21, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 21, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Australian, British str., for Kobe.
 22, Evie T. Ray, Amr. ship, for Cebu.
 22, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 22, Hongkong, Fr. str., for Kwangchauwan.
 22, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., for Canton.
 22, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Profit, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Satsuma, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Sheila, British str., for Newcastle.
 22, Silverlip, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Clara Jebson, German str., for Chinkiang.
 23, Deramore, British str., for Kobe.
 23, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 23, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 23, Ningchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Roon, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Tritos, German str., for Taintan.
 23, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Workfield, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Nubia*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. E. H. J. Hogg, Robson, Bulow Van Ravens, H. E. Sly, Mr. and Mrs. Mead, Dr. Ten Kate, Mrs. Fujii, Messrs. Brooks, A. Levett, D. Fick, N. Cito, and Lieut. Kleyenstuber; for Singapore, Messrs. W. Hammond, R. Wilson, C. Roberts, and G. Brinkworth; for London, Mr. P. J. Kitching, Mr. and Mrs. Neave, Mrs. H. M. Bevis, Miss Bevis, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Barry, and Mr. Crosthwaite.

Per *Malta*, from Calcutta for Hongkong, Mr. O'Sullivan; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Nissim, Dr. Montgomery, Maj. E. J. Wilkins, Messrs. Loureiro and A. C. Clear; from London, Mrs. Whitlow, child and maid, Mrs. Stevenson; Messrs. A. A. Clothier, J. McLaren, Lieut. E. Stevenson R.N., J. D. Christie, J. Galbraith, J. Dickie, T. H. King, C. Armstrong, Ernan, T. W. Blake and G. W. Flord; from Gibraltar, Capt. and Mrs. Madura; from Marseilles via India, Mr. and Miss Mody, Col. R. S. Marshall; from Bombay, Messrs. F. Abdulla, S. C. Khan, A. Nanabhoj, R. Pollonji and H. D. Gotla; from Penang, Mr. Rehlers; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Colombo; from London for Manila, Miss Arden; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mrs. J. P. Donovan, Miss M. Murphy, Miss Moneypenny, Messrs. E. W. Rutter and C. L. Anderson; from Marseilles, Dr. Guinness, Messrs. R. C. P. Richards, A. E. Stewart, N. A. Lane, W. A. Miles, A. B. Leane and J. Thompson; from Singapore, Mr. R. Hirose.

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Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Dr. Hahn and Mr. T. O. Sullivan.

DEPARTED.

Per *Nubia*, from Hongkong, for Colombo, Mrs. W. H. Pile, Miss S. H. Lafourcade, and Mr. F. G. Robson; for Suva, Miss Margaret Stevens; for Brindisi, Messrs. F. M. Abbott, J. M. Abbott, N. Shoemaker, Miss Martha B. Shoemaker, Mr. J. H. Tettimer, Dr. and Mrs. Per Lee Pess, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Keystone, Miss A. Keystone, Mrs. A. L. Scott and son, Messrs. A. J. Scott and John G. Warwick; for Marseilles, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Mr. Arthur Kohler, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Price, Mr. and Mrs. Kalbet and family; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bradshaw, Mr. C. H. Hopkins, Lieut. Col. Wm. Johnson, Comdr. John Nicholas, R.N., Lieut. G. H. Freberg, R.N., Pymr P. W. Roome, R.N., Lieuts. O. M. Makins and T. W. Pratt, R.N., Messrs. H. R. Eastcott, H. W. Eastcott, Asst. Paymr. F. C. V. Brown, Mr. T. S. Roberts, Dr. M. Mackenzie, Messrs. W. H. C. Ryan and E. Harold Low; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Messrs. W. A. Hammond, R. Wilson, C. Roberts, and G. Brinkworth; for London, Mr. F. J. Kitching, Mr. and Mrs. J. Neave, Miss W. C. Bevis, Mrs. H. M. Bevis, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Barry, and Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite.

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